Gov't adopts talk-and-fight mode in dealing with Reds

Story on PAGE A2

El Niño here, finally; gradual effects seen

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

EL Niño is finally here, but in a mild form.

The weather bureau said a "weak" El Niño would hit the country "with a 65-percent occurrence" at the start of the month and would last until May 2003.

EL NIÑO/A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Princess Caroline helps toxic waste victims** ACROSS/A14
- **Europe wrests Ryder Cup from US** SPORTS/A22
- **3.06% inflation seen** BUSINESS/B2

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, October 1, 2002 ★★ 58 pages / 4 sections / vol. 17 / no. 295 P15 website: www.inq7.net

15 groups endorse raps vs PEA officials

Whistle-blower in P1-B road scam considered credible

By Volt Contreras, Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

UP to 15 civil society groups are joining whistle-blower Sulficio Tagud Jr. in filing criminal charges against officials of the Public Estates Authority (PEA) and a contractor in connection with the alleged P600-million overprice of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

Some of them were signatories to the impeachment complaint filed in 2000 against then President Joseph Estrada. They include PlunderWatch, Citizens' National Network Against Poverty and Corruption, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Council on Philippine Affairs, Kairos Philippines, Gabriela, Anakbayan, E-Just and individuals who played significant roles in People Power II.

"We are solidly supporting Tagud just as we were supportive of Chavit Singson," said Teddy Casiño, Bayan secretary general. Former Ilocos Norte Gov. Luis Chavit Singson's accusations that Estrada received millions of pesos from "jueteng" operators led to his impeachment and ouster.

Dr. Carol Araullo, PlunderWatch convenor, said her group had met with Tagud twice over the weekend. "As far as we are concerned, the anomaly is so obvious," she told the INQUIRER last night.

"Apparently the scam was perpetrated because the officials thought that nobody would talk. *Lalaki pa ito* (This will broaden) because the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is involved." The GSIS extended the PEA a P1-billion loan for the con-

15 NGOS/A19

House to await final ruling on MJ bail

By Juliet L. Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE leadership yesterday took the position that the chamber would not intervene in the extradition case of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez until the Supreme Court had finalized its decision canceling his bail.

But at the same time, the leadership authorized the House committees on justice and on foreign relations to work on the amendment of the extradition law so that Filipino citizens facing extradition would not be subject to immediate arrest.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula filed a bill providing that Filipinos cannot be arrested until after they are deemed qualified for extradition and subject to final conviction in a foreign country.

Congressmen supportive of Jimenez are expected to confront Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and other officials today at the start of the joint investigation on his status by the two committees.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, foreign relations committee chair Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., justice committee chair Marcelino Libanan, and Rep. Arthur Defensor held a press conference after a leaders' caucus yesterday.

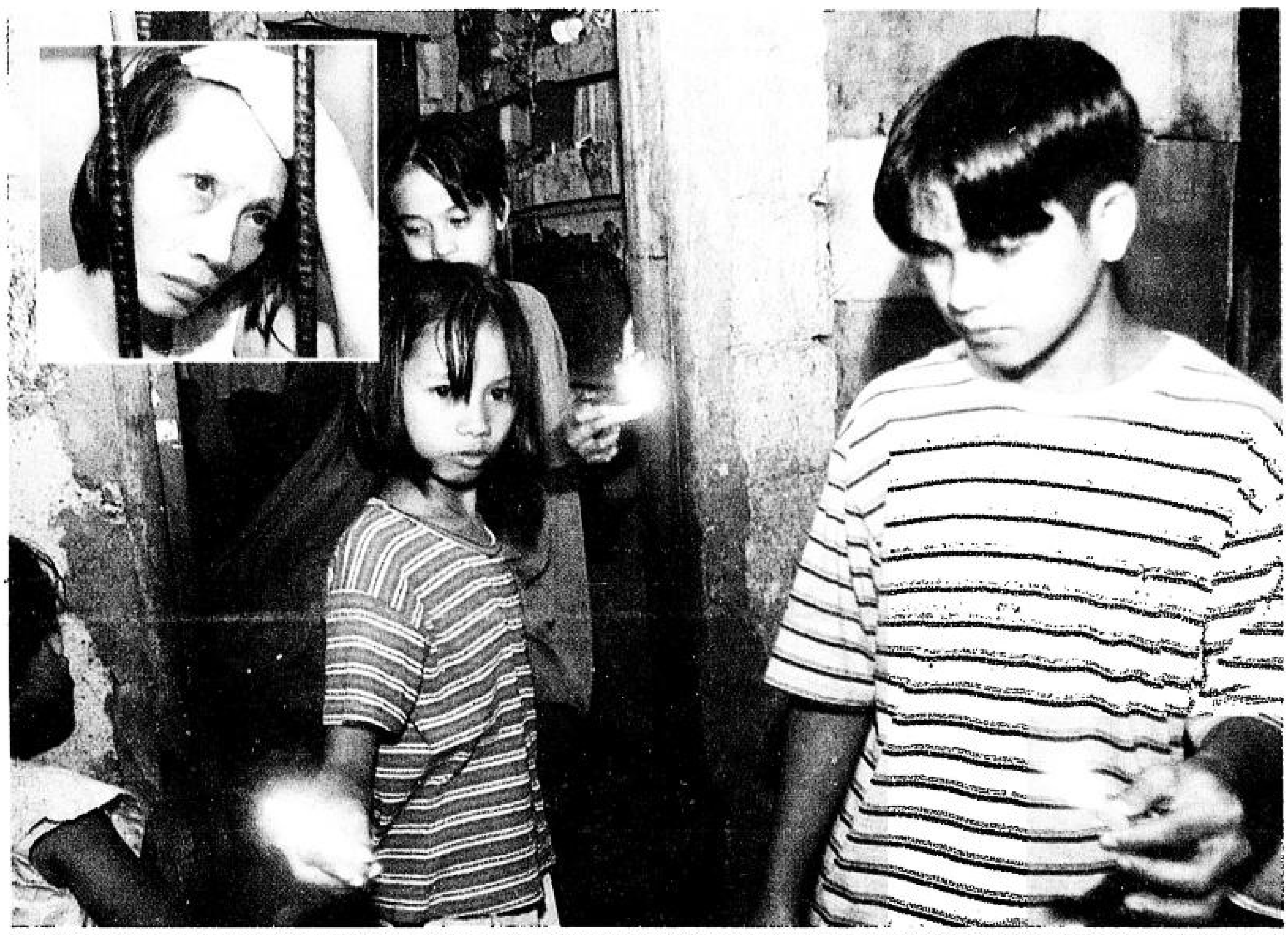
Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who urged Jimenez Saturday to seek a settlement of his case in the United States, did not face the media.

Gonzalez said the consensus was to await the high court's final ruling because Jimenez had 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration on the cancellation of his P1-million bail.

He said it would be premature for the House to intervene before the tribunal's ruling became final and executory.

The House leadership was forced to take a position in the wake of the threat of congressmen supportive of Jimenez to block his arrest, arrest those who would arrest him, and create what they described as a "constitutional crisis."

HOUSE/A18



JERSON, Jemma and Jeremy Piloneo light candles in front of their shanty in Caloocan City to mourn the death of their two siblings, Jaypee and Jerlyn. Their mother, Rosalinda (inset), faces parricide charges.

VAL HANDUMON

A tale of death in a one-room shanty

By Tina Santos

THIS is the story that police pieced together from witnesses after arresting a woman and finding the bodies of her two children early yesterday in Caloocan City.

Unable to feed herself and her children for the past several days, Rosalinda Piloneo, 43, picked up a pillow at about 3 a.m. and suffocated two of them with it while they slept.

A third child, Jemma, 12, could have also been killed had she not awakened, wrested the pillow from her mother, and run out of the family's one-room shanty to seek help from neighbors.

Authorities arrested Rosalinda at around 7 a.m. while she was having breakfast in the house of her neighbor Isabel de Vera.

Other neighbors found the bodies of Jaypee, 11, and his sister Jerlyn, 9, swarming with ants shortly afterward.

Of Rosalinda's brood of seven, the eldest is aged 22 and the youngest, 9. Her husband Gerry

A TALE/A19

Palace eyes BF for 2004

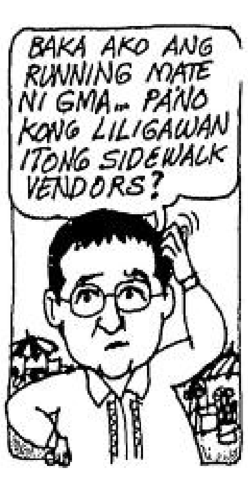
By Carlito Pablo

STREET vendors avoid him like the plague, but in the eyes of Malacañang, Bayani Fernando is a rising political star.

Fernando, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, is rating high in the Palace's own polling system that he may be considered the running mate of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004, according to Jose Ma. Rufino, presidential adviser for political affairs.

"BF is rating high at 80 to 90 percent

PALACE/A19


BAKA AKO ANG RUNNING MATE NI GMA... PANO KONG LILIGAWAN ITONG SIDEWALK VENDORS?

Siargao Island: Sun, surfing . . . and sex?

By Ma. Kristina E. Cassion
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SIARGAO, Surigao del Norte—Tourism has encouraged prostitution and pedophilia in this well-known surfing destination, the pastor of the island said yesterday.

Rev. Jose Tabamo of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines said he had received complaints from parishioners in General Luna town and neighboring municipalities about prostitutes flocking in from as far as Metro Manila.

He said a number of local women had also been lured into prostitution, and attributed the growing sex trade to the presence of foreign visitors.

Tabamo, who is also convenor of the militant Promo-

SIARGAO/A6

'Lumad' children sent to battle rebels

By Ferdinand O. Zuasola
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BAGANGA, Davao Oriental—More and more children are being drawn into the war between New People's Army (NPA) rebels and anti-communist *lumad* (indigenous people's) communities in the province, raising concern among local officials.

Lawyer Alejandro Aquino, spokesperson of Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil, said Mandaya families had also started sending their children to the battlefields.

Aquino, who is also a *dangyaan* or adviser to the Mandaya, said he was alarmed by the increasing number of children going to war and immediately talked with tribal leaders about the situation.

"I advised them to spare their very young children from the war," he said. It was not immediately known whether the tribal leaders heeded Aquino's appeal.

There has been no immediate estimate of the number of *lumad* children joining the war, but this correspondent has already seen many of them.

Aquino disclosed the use of children by the anti-communist Mandaya after NPA leaders admitted that they had fielded fresh recruits as young as 16 years old in combat areas.

A spokesperson of the NPA's Rhyme Petalcorin Command operating in Maco and Mati towns here earlier told the INQUIRER that the young recruits had undergone three months of rigorous training.

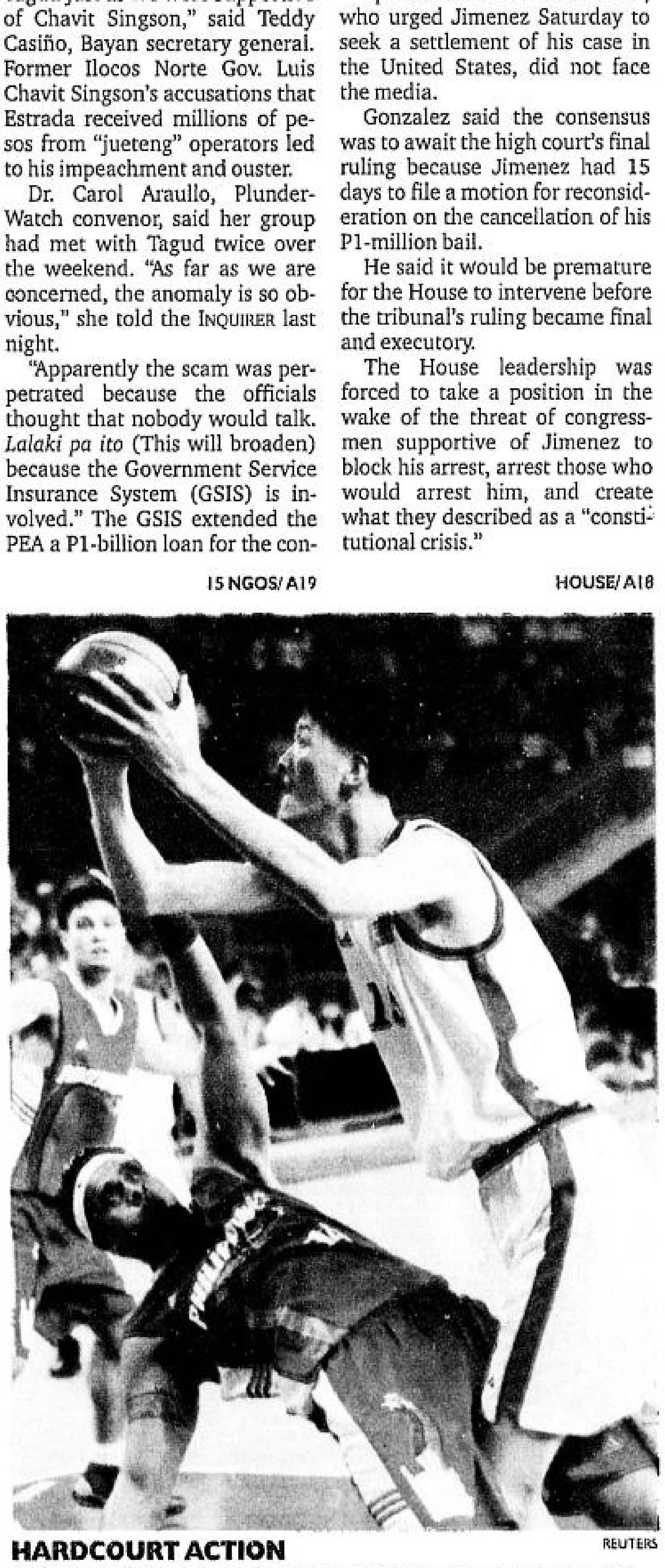
"They are very young, idealistic and ready to fight for the revolution," said Diomabok Kadyaman, the NPA spokesperson. Most of the recruits came from poor tribal communities.

Aside from urging Mandaya leaders to stop sending children to war, Aquino appealed to the tribe to stop fighting the rebels "because that is not their job."

"They have their own very serious concerns and problems like their displacement from their land," he said.

But Aquino said he was not blaming the tribal leaders for

LUMAD/A6



HARDCOURT ACTION

REUTERS

Asi Taulava (left) of the Philippines tries to stop North Korea's 7'7" center Ri Myong-hun as their teams clash during the 14th Asian Games. The Philippines won 89-63. *(See story in Sports, Page A21.)*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/01/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

Bello: We'll talk and fight

By Carlito Pablo

IT'S open season in the hunt for Red rebels.

The chair of the government's peace panel negotiating with the National Democratic Front (NDF), political umbrella of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), yesterday endorsed Operation Georgian Knot, the joint military and police offensive launched over the weekend following a rash of rebel attacks.

Chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III said verbal negotiations alone were not going to work at this point, even as the rebels offered, also yesterday, to reopen the formal peace talks suspended in June 2001.

NPA guerrillas raided the police station in Lopez, Quezon province on Friday, killing the chief and a junior officer. Earlier in the week, they attacked the Maco town police station in Compostela Valley, and blew up a rock crushing plant and torched heavy equipment in Angat, Bulacan.

"Considering that there is no ceasefire, the more victories achieved by the military, the better for the panel because we will be negotiating from a position of strength," Bello said over state radio dzRB.

"The reality is (that) while we are talking, we are fighting," he said of the government's relationship with the NDF.

Bello said the government had offered the rebels a ceasefire since the time of President Fidel Ramos, without success. He said the government now had "reservations" about the NDF's sincerity in resolving the 34-year-old conflict.

Bello's panel recently drafted a proposed final peace agreement with the NDF, which it has presented twice to the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security, according to Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process.

In an interview over radio dzRH, Ermita said the committee was set to review the draft again this week.

DEFENSOR

"Hopefully the review will be completed within this week," Ermita said, "so we can get the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo." The draft will be brought to the negotiating table when the talks resume.

Meanwhile, he echoed Bello's position: "We are in a talk and fight mode."

In the meantime, the military yesterday vowed to fight the communist insurgency "not with two fists, but with three."

The warning was issued by Armed Forces chief Gen. Benjamin Defensor, who boldly announced the launch of Operation Gordian Knot on Sunday.

"Under my leadership, (the AFP) is going to be decisive," Defensor said in a statement. He said the new battleplan consists of intensified operations in Bicol, Quezon, Bulacan, Zambales, Pangasinan, Cagayan Valley, Negros and Northeastern Mindanao.

The military said the recent rash of NPA attacks was expected.

"They want to show they are still around after suffering strategic setbacks," Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said during an interview with mediamen.

Reyes was referring to the group's recent classification by the United States as a terrorist organization, and the withdrawal of the Dutch government's support for their exiled leader, Jose Ma. Sison. The rebels were merely trying to score "tactical victories," Reyes said.

National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. bristled at the rebels' offer to go back to the negotiating table.

"It's like hitting you so you would talk to them, or stoning your house before inviting you to a dialogue," Ebdane said, visibly irked, during a press briefing in Camp Crame.

Ebdane urged government peace negotiators to seriously think about the offer before making any commitment.

"Let us not slap ourselves," he said. But he expressed reservations about Operation Gordian Knot.

"This is a political problem," the PNP chief said. "If we look at it only as a military problem, then we can't solve it." A "total war" against the insurgents should also involve the local government units and all government departments, he said.

He explained: "It starts as an economic (problem), then it grows into a social, political and military problem."

With TJ Burgonio and Martin P. Marfil

Widow of cop slain by NPA appeals to GMA

LOPEZ, Quezon—The widow of the policeman slain by communist rebels along with this town's police chief week has appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo for help in ensuring the education of her children.

Marivic Gutierrez Santiago, widow of SPO2 Nestor Santiago, admitted during necrological services for her husband at the town hall here that it would be hard for her to continue sending their five children to school.

The children, all dressed in white, sat silently in front of their father's coffin.

Lopez Mayor Sonny Ubana said the local government would coordinate with the Philippine National Police on how to assist the slain policeman's family.

"His family deserves all the help. He died in the line of duty trying to defend his post," Ubana said.

A band of heavily armed New People's Army members, some of them dressed in barong Tagalog and sporting huge National Bureau of Investigation identification cards, raided the town's police station and caught at least seven cops by surprise.

Lopez police chief Supt. Cesar Santander and Santiago were killed, while the station's armory was ransacked of a still undetermined number of weapons.

Police have filed five criminal charges against NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal and several John Does for the death of Santander and Santiago and the wounding of at least three other officers.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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INQUIRER editorial consultant and columnist Amando Doronila (right) receives the Don Chino Roces Freedom Award from President Macapagal-Arroyo. Looking on are award vice chairman Fernando Peña and chairman Jorge Sarmiento.

BETOY JOHNSON

Doronila, 3 others win Don Chino Award

By Dona Pazzibugan

FOR "high professional integrity and a keen sense of perspective" in his writings, INQUIRER political analyst Amando Doronila received the 2002 Chino Roces Freedom Award yesterday.

The ceremonies, held at the Manila Polo Club, coincided with the 14th death anniversary of former Manila Times publisher and street parliamentarian Joaquin "Don Chino" P. Roces.

Other recipients of the award given by the Don Chino Roces Foundation "for extraordinary achievement in freedom and active citizenship" were Fr. Romeo Intengan, S.J., businessman Guillermo Luz, and the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG).

President Macapagal Arroyo conferred the awards on the recipients.

Doronila, who began his journalistic career in 1953, has had numerous papers and books published. His latest bestseller and award-winning work is "The Fall of Joseph Estrada."

He was detained during martial law, on account of his incisive and hard-hitting political commentaries.

In his extemporaneous acceptance speech, Doronila compared Roces to India's Mahatma Gandhi, saying the two men were enduring symbols of the universal fight for freedom.

He said Roces was a central figure in the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship.

"No one did more," Doronila said, pointing out Roces' sacrifice of wealth and power to oppose the dictatorship. During martial law, Roces was forced to sell The Manila Times, the newspaper that his family had published for decades.

Doronila said Filipinos should emulate Roces' selflessness in fighting a "new and more acute" danger.

"The worst enemy is the Filipinos' individualistic concept of democracy," he said.

"Unlike mature democracies, (ours) emphasizes individual freedom rather than the well-being of the community."

This, Doronila said, has resulted in gridlock in government for the past several years.

He warned, "Freedom can be used or misused. It can be used like an acetylene torch to melt national consensus, or to build institutions. If Filipinos were more community-oriented, they could build magnificent edifices."

FLAG, founded by the late Sen. Jose W. Diokno, was cited for championing the legal rights of the poor and the oppressed. Lawyer Pablito Sanidad received the award for the organization.

Fr. Intengan—surgeon, teacher and activist—was honored "for dedicating his life to the fight for freedom, human rights and social justice."

He was a leader of the underground Philippine Democratic Socialist Party during the Marcos dictatorship. More recently, he was a member of the Constitutional Transition Committee that ensured the smooth transfer of the presidency after President Joseph Estrada's ouster last year.

Luz won his award for enlisting the business community in socio-political reform.

For over 15 years now, Luz has been executive director and spokesperson of the Makati Business Club.

He is also secretary-general of the poll watchdog group, Namfrel.

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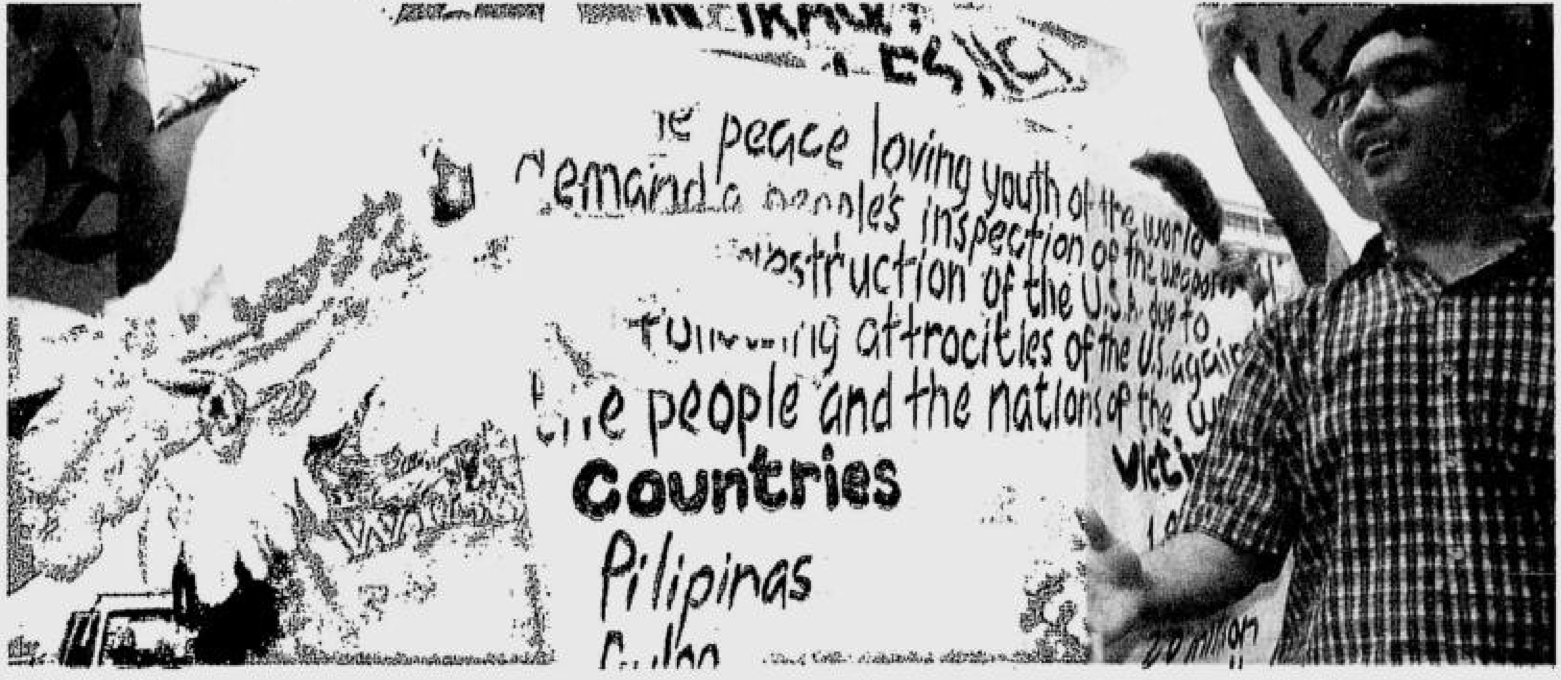
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Militant youth release a white dove, the international symbol for peace, in front of the American Embassy on Roxas Boulevard, Manila yesterday to protest US aggression against Iraq.
ERIK ARAZAS

Gov't building up oil reserves in face of war

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Ronnel W. Domingo

WITH war appearing imminent between the United States and Iraq, the government has stepped up efforts to build up local oil reserves.

In a briefing at Malacañang yesterday, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said local oil firms would be required to maintain a higher "in country" inventory.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo is preparing an executive order, which might be signed next week, requiring locally based oil companies to "maintain a minimum inventory in the country." He did not specify what the minimum supply would be.

"This is not meant to prevent any oil price increases. Oil prices fluctuate based on market trends. We're mainly ensuring an adequate supply of oil in the country," Perez said.

He said the country had a 62-day oil supply, which is higher than the "prudent minimum" of a 40-day reserve.

Sources

"Amid the growing tension and uncertainty in the Middle East, the Philippines still has a sufficient oil supply," he said.

The country sources its oil mainly from five Middle East countries, namely, Saudi Arabia (32 percent), Iran (26%), United Arab Emirates (20%), Oman (9%) and Qatar (7%). Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia supply the rest.

Currently, Filipino officials are negotiating formal supply agreements with three other oil-producing countries, Perez said.

He refused to identify the countries, however, beyond saying one is in the Middle East, another is a neighboring country and the third is a non-traditional oil source outside the Middle East.

With the Middle Eastern nation, "we are discussing a formal solid assurance arrangement for oil supply of a quantity that we hope to finalize in a few weeks," Perez told reporters.

Another potential accord is a "commercial arrangement" between the Philippine National Oil Co. and a Southeast Asian country's national oil company, he said.

The third pact is with a country from which the Philippines does not import oil, but one with which "we hope to initiate and open new supply arrangements," he said.

Far from it

He did not specify how much the Philippines would be importing under these new agreements.

Perez said the government has a contingency plan in case of a oil shortage.

"But we believe we're far from that," he added.

He said the country now has bigger oil reserves than during the first US-Iraq war in 1991. He said this was a result of the country lowering its dependence on oil for its power needs from 60% 10 years ago to 11.75% today.

The country, however, remains heavily dependent on imported oil for transportation and cooking, he said.

Perez said British, US and Japanese firms were prospecting for oil in the Philippines following the recent discovery of commercially exploitable offshore natural gas in the western part of the country.

Perez said the government was taking steps to ensure a steady oil supply, including proposing to Japan, China, South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that a regional oil stockpile be located at Subic Bay, Zambales.

He said the country was also holding ongoing discussions on contingency bilateral supply agreements with traditional and new oil producing countries.

Perez said that past oil crises showed that the recent upsurge in oil prices was only temporary. *With an AFP report*

World Bank paints rosy picture of RP, Asean

WASHINGTON—Asian and Philippine officials, as well as a World Bank expert, painted a positive economic picture for the Philippines and Southeast Asia at the annual World Bank-International Monetary Fund autumn meeting in this city.

But they could not ignore an uninvited guest to the meeting concern over the impending attack on Iraq by the United States and Britain.

If war broke out in Iraq, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told the INQUIRER, the Philippines has a contingent repatriation and economic plan in place.

World Bank vice president for East Asia and the Pacific Jemal-ud-din Kassum expressed "high confidence" in the Macapagal administration.

"We are very supportive of the administration, and we believe strongly in the potential of the Philippines both for growth and for poverty reduction," Kassum told the INQUIRER. *Jennie L. Ilustre, Washington Correspondent*

WTO backs lower tax on tuna

THE WORLD Trade Organization supports the Philippines' campaign for reduced tariffs for the country's tuna exports to Europe, the Department of Foreign Affairs said over the weekend.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople met with Dr. Supachai Parichpakdi, WTO head, in Geneva, Switzerland after he addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Parichpakdi told Ople he supports the campaign to have "punitive" tariffs against Philippine canned tuna reduced to more economically viable levels.

Countries in the European Union impose stiff tariff rates on canned tuna from the Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations. *Norman Bordadora*

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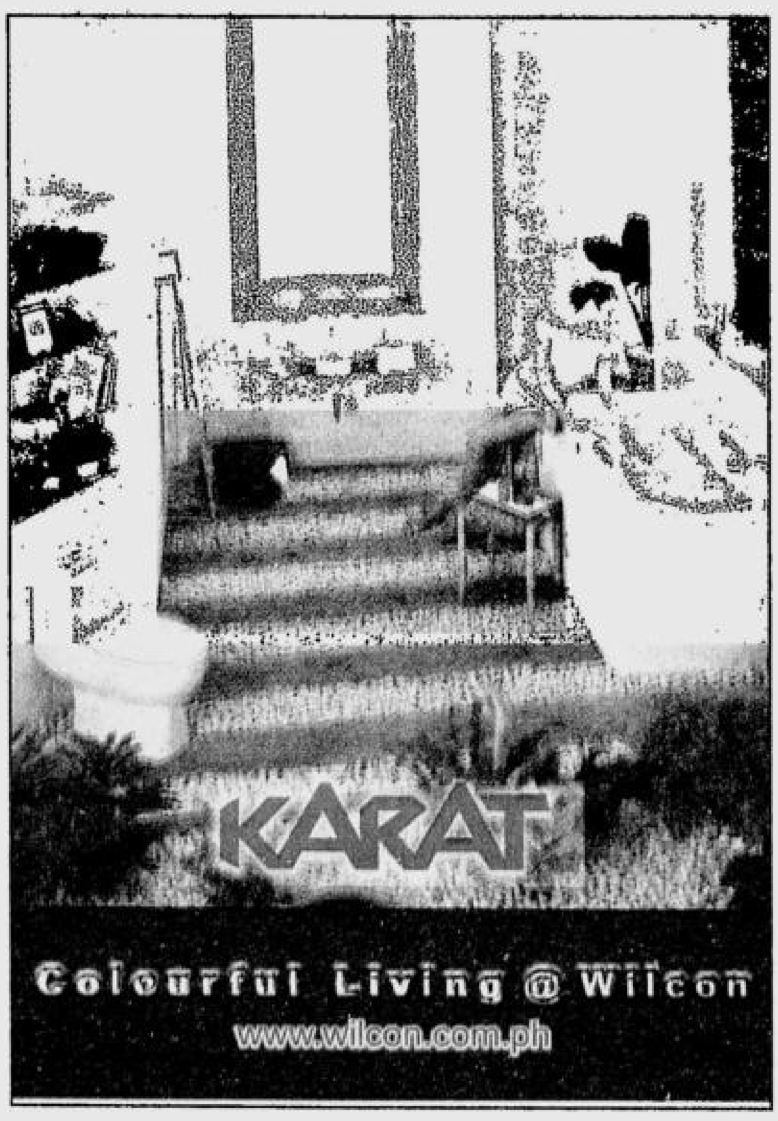

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Raps poised vs Malaysian rape suspects

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez has said the Malaysian police would be filing criminal charges against the Malaysian guards who allegedly sexually assaulted a 13-year-old Filipino girl who was expelled from Sabah last month.

At a press briefing yesterday, Perez said charges of statutory rape would be filed against those who allegedly raped "Angelica."

A three-man Malaysian police investigating team, which arrived in Manila on Sept. 25, concluded their fact-finding probe and documentation last Friday.

The team was headed by assistant police commissioner Takbir Ahmad bin Nazir Mohamed.

Perez corrected an earlier statement he made that seven Malaysian guards were involved in the rape.

"I made a mistake. My attention was called to the fact that seven pictures were (shown to Angelica)," he said.

Of the seven mug shots shown to Angelica, only three were identified as the alleged rapists.

"So I am making this correction because my (earlier statement) was wrong," he said.

Perez said the investigating team, based on their interviews with Angelica and an unnamed witness, found evidence to establish the crime of rape.

"The investigating team will endorse to the (Malaysian) Attorney General's Office the charges to be filed against the guards," Perez said.

If the Attorney General's Office, the justice department's counterpart, finds probable cause it would file the charges with the proper court in Malaysia, according to Perez.

"The Malaysian lawyers who came over also called me and reported that they were satisfied with the way the investigation was conducted by their police who came to the Philippines," Perez said.

But Angelica would need to go to Malaysia to face her assailants during the trial, he said.

"She needs to testify there in court, not just identify the rapists through pictures," Perez said, but added that he would insist that she be accompanied by representatives from the social welfare department, the Public Attorneys Office and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

NEGOSASYON HINDI DEMOLISYON
KATARUNGAN SA MARALITA HINDI KARAHASAN

ANTI-DEMOLITION banners and slogans are disregarded by demolition crews that tore down illegal squatters' shanties along the controversial Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. in Pasay City. The road has been the subject of charges of overpricing. ERIK ARAZAS

GMA puts executions on hold indefinitely

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has suspended all executions indefinitely until a debate in Congress over the death penalty is settled, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said yesterday.

Ople relayed the news to envoys from the European Union, who have opposed the death penalty in the Philippines.

"I informed the EU ambassadors that the President has suspended all executions while Congress is still debating the merits of the Death Penalty Law," Ople told reporters.

He said the envoys met the news "with great enthusiasm."

Ople did not say why Ms Macapagal chose to halt executions now.

Foreign affairs department sources said the President had informed Ople that he could relay this information to the European Union ambassadors even before she announced it publicly.

Last month, the President gave three convicted rapists on Death Row a 90-day reprieve from execution.

The decision was pending clemency pleas made to her office and made to appease the Church which has opposed executions. This suspension would have lasted until Nov. 28.

The death penalty was reimposed in 1994 and seven convicts were executed in 1999. However then president Joseph Estrada ordered an indefinite freeze following pressure from rights groups and the Church. *AFP*

Sino drug suspect flees

THE GOVERNMENT'S anti-drug campaign has suffered a setback following the reported escape of a Chinese national, who was being held for possession of P700 million worth of shabu, from the the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Camp Crame before dawn on Sunday.

PDEA officials confirmed the escape of Henry Tan from the PDEA detention center, the jail of the defunct Narcotics Group, at about 5:30 a.m. on Sunday.

PDEA spokesperson Supt. Elmer Beltejar said Tan escaped by sawing off the window grill of his cell.

PDEA Director General Anselmo Avenido ordered a massive hunt for Tan and an investigation of the escape, Beltejar said.

He also dismissed two unidentified PDEA personnel who had been guarding Tan.

Tan, who was arrested with two other Chinese for possession of 350 kg of shabu in San Narciso, Zambales, on Nov. 15, 2001, was set to be transferred to a PDEA regional jail. *TJ Burgonio*

Witness tells how jueteng money was laundered

By Volt Contreras

THINK of a P200-million bank account.

Take out the money in staggered amounts—say 14 withdrawals in two weeks.

Further split each withdrawal into two, to come up with 28 smaller figures.

Finally, deposit the small sums to another account, until the total P200 million has been completely transferred.

This, according to a prosecution witness in the Estrada plunder trial yesterday, was how alleged jueteng protection money ended up as funds for the controversial Erap Muslim Youth Foundation (EMYF).

To prosecutors, it was a clear case of money laundering pulled off by then President Joseph Estrada with the help of his now co-accused lawyer, Edward Serapio—long before the country came up with a law against the white-collar crime.

Antonio Martin Fortuno, operations officer at the Pacific Star-Makati branch of Equitable PCI Bank (EPCIB), was the prosecution's 33rd witness but the first to discuss at length how Estrada's alleged jueteng payola ended up in what was believed to be a dummy foundation.

Fortuno said it began with the opening of a P200-million "bearer account" by another EPCIB officer, Beatrice Bagsit, on April 25, 2000, with the Pacific Star branch. At the time, Bagsit was division chief for the Makati area. She is no longer connected with the bank.

According to the witness, the P200 million was gradually transferred to EPCIB's Strata 100-Ortigas branch in Pasig City from April 27—or two days after the account was opened—to May 11.

Exactly 14 withdrawals were made during the period, each through the issuance of a manager's check, Fortuno said, quoting records he had brought to court.

Each withdrawn amount was then broken down into two smaller sums, which were deposited on the same day in the EMYF account with the Strata 100 branch.

For example, a Pacific Star branch withdrawal for P15 million made on May 8 was split up to make two EMYF deposits—one at P9.064 million and another at P5.936 million.

There were a total of 28 deposits in the EMYF account, Fortuno said.

The bearer account opened by Bagsit, he recalled, was closed on Nov. 14, 2000. Curiously, it was the day after Estrada was impeached at the House of Representatives.

Senior State prosecutor Alex Padilla, who conducted Fortuno's direct examination, said Bagsit opened the account "upon instructions" from Serapio, then EMYF secretary.

Padilla said the instruction was contained in Bagsit's "acknowledgement letter" addressed to Serapio and indicating receipt of "six checks" for deposit.

He noted that the checks cited in the letter were the ones EPCIB branch managers earlier said were issued to Yolanda Ricaforte, Estrada's alleged "auditor" for jueteng collections.

In the same letter, the government lawyer said, Bagsit also acknowledged Serapio's instructions for her to deposit the P200 million in the foundation's account.

Off court, Padilla wondered aloud why Serapio had to course the money through the EPCIB Pacific Star branch, only to move it soon after to the branch in Strata 100, "the same building that houses his law office."

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Pinay, foreign maids decry maltreatment in Lebanon

BEIRUT—Lalia believes that if divine justice is served, her Lebanese employers will be reborn as maids in her native country of Sri Lanka, where they will face a lifetime of the same rough treatment they dish out to her.

Now 29, Lalia has worked as a maid in Lebanon for 10 years.

She describes those years as "hell", and says she has not lived a single "good day" in all the homes where she has worked.

"I have never in my life seen people who treat others as badly as the families I have worked for," Lalia laments. "They beat me with reason or without, just because they can."

Billy, a Filipina, seems to have better luck because, she says, the Lebanese family she works for treats her kindly. The woman of the house occasionally scolds her, she says, but has never raised a hand at her.

"On the contrary," Billy says, "she shows special interest in me and understands my position as a person who lives far away from my parents and family."

Abuses

Sadly, the Filipina's story is not typical, according to a recent report by the human rights group Amnesty International that listed beatings, verbal abuse, starvation and imprisonment in Lebanese employers' homes as "common" abuses faced by foreign domestic maids. Some of the workers were even subjected to sexual abuse, the report said.

Lebanon's Labor Ministry statistics show that in 2000, more than 54,000 foreign workers were registered in the country. Current unofficial estimates put the figure closer to 150,000—80 percent of whom come from Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Ethiopia, and are employed as live-in househelp.

The numbers suggest there are about four foreign maids for every 100 Lebanese living in the country—a ratio skewed by the fact that some wealthy families have many maids.

Driven by poverty in their home countries, women from Africa and southern Asia travel to Lebanon to earn $100-$300 a month as live-in maids—money sent to their families back home.

Many maids say they are able to buy a house back in their country after working for several years in Lebanon.

But rights activists maintain that apparent benefits mask the maltreatment that many of these workers experience at the hands of their employers and the agencies that fly them across the world for work.

Widespread

The Amnesty International report said the situation was not confined to Lebanon but was widespread across the Arab world and several developing countries.

Ray Jraidini, who heads the Social and Behavioral Studies department at the American University of Beirut, said abuse against foreign workers was not rooted in the character of Lebanese society, but instead varied from employer to employer. *Reuters*

Historical Society sets meet

SPEAKERS have confirmed participation at the Philippine National Historical Society's conference scheduled on Nov. 21-23 at UP Cebu College in Cebu City.

The conference theme is "Toward a National History of the Philippines: Local History in the Context of National History."

The speakers who have submitted abstracts of their papers are: Ma. Nela B. Florendo (UP College Baguio), Earl Jude Paul L. Cleope (Silliman University), Calbi A. Asain (Mindanao State University-Sulu), Rene B. Escalante (De La Salle University), Henry F. Funtecha (UPV Miag-ao, Iloilo), Jonathan B. Catubig (MSU-Marawi), Julie Ann A. Hallazgo (University of Santo Tomas).

Ma. Elena Rivera-Mirano (UP Diliman), Ma. Alexandra Inigo Chua (UST), Jose S. Buenconsejo (UP Diliman), Ma. Eloisa Parco-de Guzman (UST), Cynthia Luz P. Rivera (UST), Francis A. Gealogo (Ateneo de Manila University), Stephen Henry S. Totanes (ADMU and Ateneo de Naga).

Gil G. Gotiangco Jr. II (UP Diliman), Cornelio Bascara (DLSU), Elizabeth L. Enriquez (UP Diliman), Norma I. Alarcon (UST), Rosario Lucero (UP Diliman), P. Emelio S. Pascual (University of San Carlos), Ronaldo Mactal (DLSU).

Jes B. Tirol (University of Bohol), Daniel C. Talde (UPV-Tacloban), Pablo U. Amascual III (Leyte Normal University) and Rosario Nabong-Cabardo (Tendaya Foundation).

For inquiries, contact Dr. Bernardita R. Churchill, president and national convenor, at (02) 921-4575 or 926-1347, or Dr. Madrilena de la Cerna, local convenor, UP Cebu College, at (032) 233-9034.

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Lands applied for during Macapagal presidency awarded in daughter's term

AFTER 37 years, 68 former soldiers and policemen have finally gotten the lands promised them by President Diosdado Macapagal in 1965.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez turned over on Sunday the parcels of land to members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police who are now mostly retired generals, colonels and majors.

Alvarez, together with AFP Officers Village Association Inc. chair Brig. Gen. Liberato A. Mauel (ret.), president P/Supt. Carlomagno V. Toribio (ret.) and director Col. Rodolfo B. Villanueva, distributed 51 Deeds of Sale and 17 Orders of Award to lots in the AFP Officers Village.

The AFP Officers Village was segregated from the former Fort William McKinley Reservation under Proclamation 461 issued by President Macapagal in 1965.

Sunday's event coincided with the birth anniversary of the late President and the 37th anniversary of the AFPOVAI.

It was no coincidence, however, that the awarding of the lots happened during the administration of President Macapagal's daughter, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The lots were to be disposed of under provisions of Republic Acts 274 and 730, but the processing of public land applications was suspended in 1992 and resumed only in 2000. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

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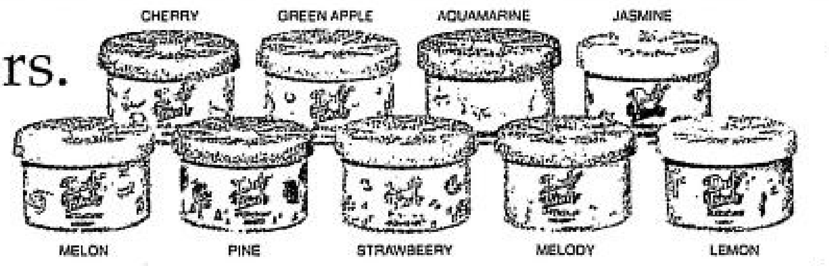

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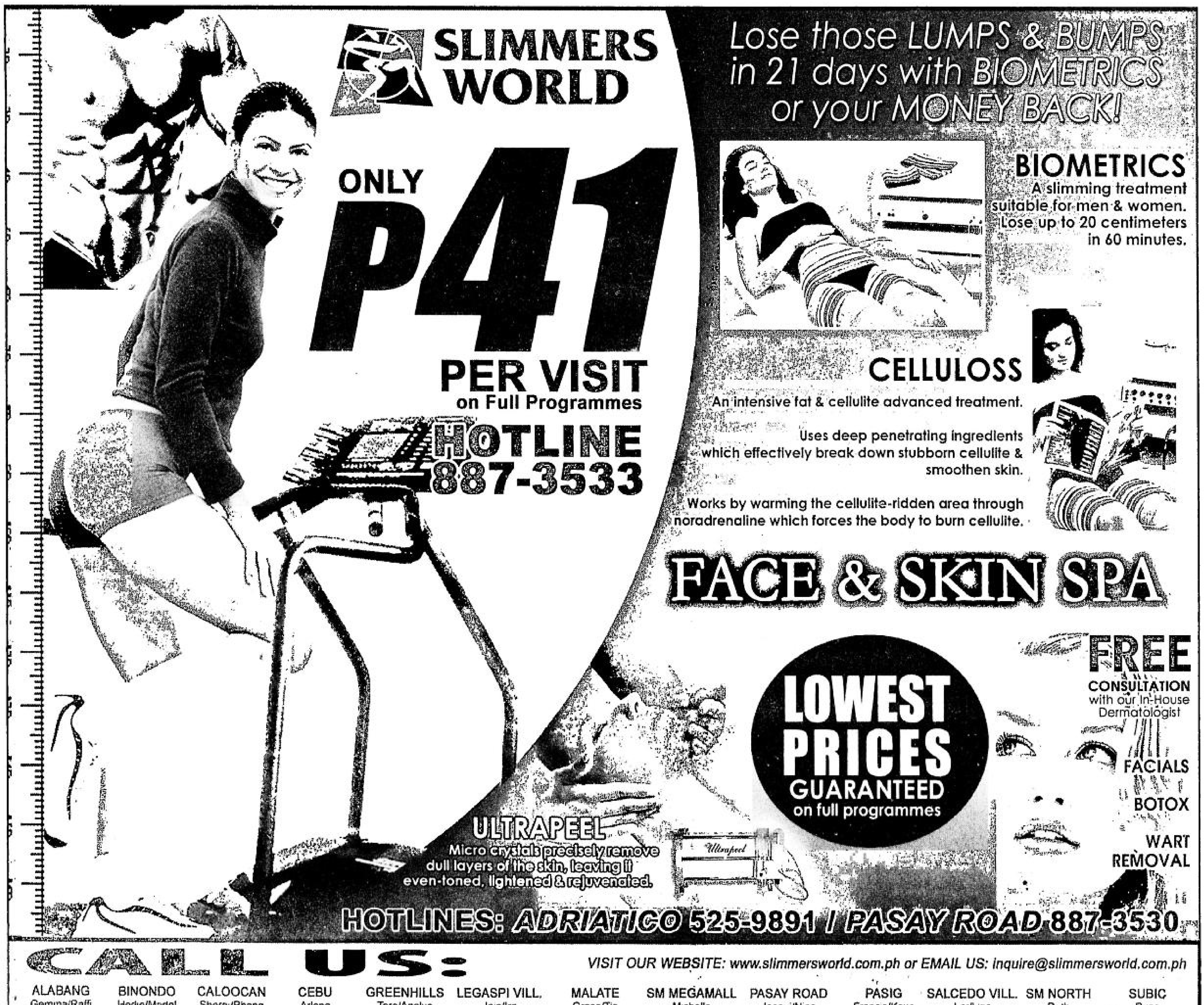

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2F RCBC Bldg.	3/F Regina	6/F Panorama	Basement 1&2	27/F Atlanta Ctr.	G/F Zeta Bldg.	6F Pan Pacific Hotel	2F Bldg. A	1032 Arnaiz	Restaurant Ave.	27/F Trafalgar	2/F Annex Bldg.	2/F Times Square
Zapote-Alabang Rd.	Garden II	Bldg., Rizal Ave.	Ayala Center	#31 Annapolis	Salcedo St.	Adriatico Sq. Garden	Mandaluyong	Avenue, cor. EDSA	Marcos Hi-way	Dela Costa St.	Quezon City	Rizal Hi-way
809-0396	242-1312	365-7654	231-3254	726-6505	893-8934	536-0619	631-3869	887-1336	681-5333	814-0138	929-5429	252-6514

Siargao Island: Sun, surfing . . . and sex?

From page A1

tion of Church People's Response in Siargao, likewise expressed concern about the supposed increasing number in sex activities involving children.

"The eco-tourism program of the government here should be blamed for the mounting immorality problems on our island," he said. "In effect, they are promoting immorality."

He also said children were being exposed to nudity, and that some foreigners were reportedly having sex at the beach in full view of the locals.

But local officials took a dismissive attitude.

Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers said local women were not among the prostitutes in Siargao.

General Luna Mayor Cecilia Rosillon said prostitution could not be prevented. "We will do what we can to minimize it," she added, but pointed out that it was her first time to hear about pedophilia on the island.

Steve Robertson, board member of the Association of Professional Surfers (ASP), said the flesh trade had nothing to do with the surfing activities.

But he said the ASP, one of the organizers of the recently concluded international surfing cup in Siargao, would help in investigating the reported cases of pedophilia.

"Prostitution is an age-old trade," Robertson said. "What is more alarming is the pedophilia issue."

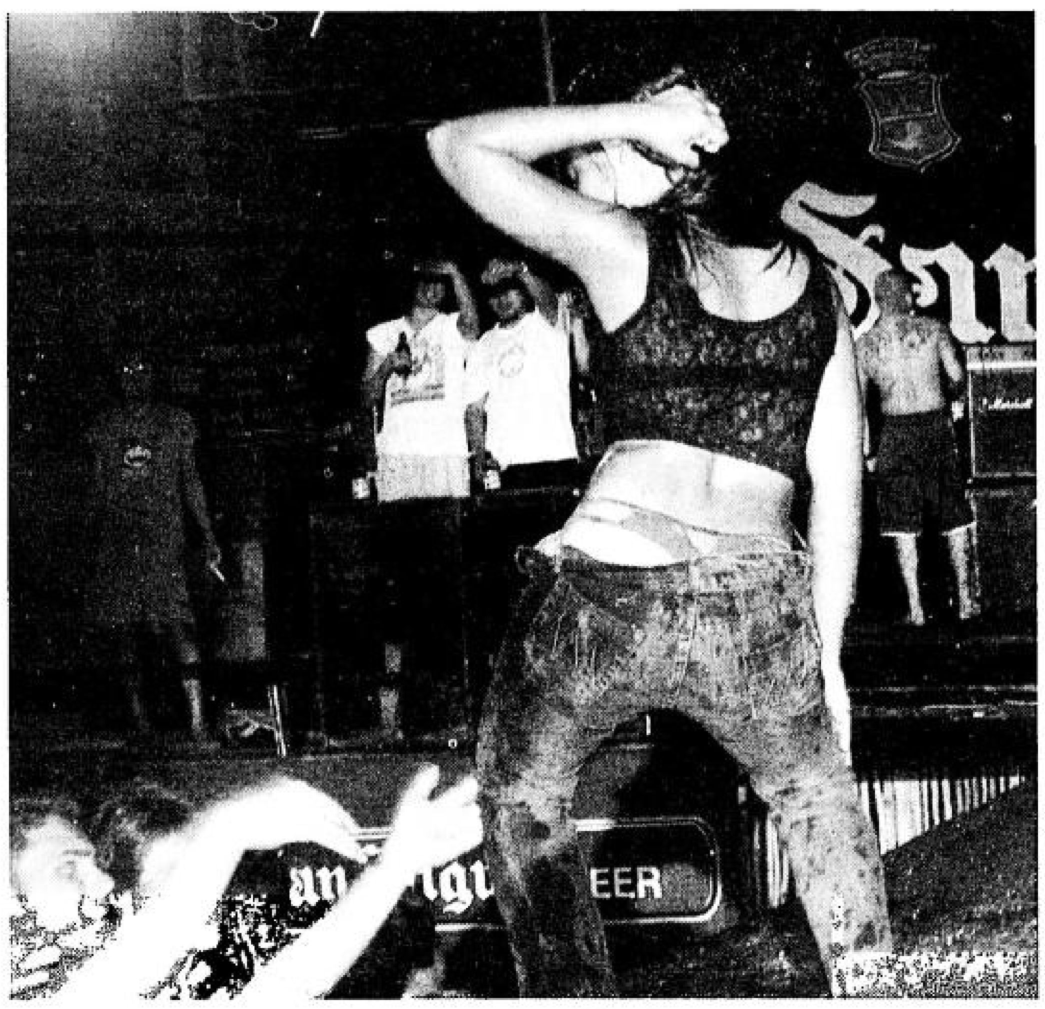
'Lewd shows'

Tabamo assailed the local government for "encouraging immorality" by putting up fashion shows featuring models in skimpy bathing suits and other "lewd shows."

After the awarding ceremony of the Surfing Cup on Saturday, five women from among the audience participated in a "sexy babes" contest wherein they were told "to do the sexiest thing you can do on stage for the guys."

Local children joined the adult crowd in gawking at the contestants as the emcee shouted: "Do you want them to strip?"

A local woman who called herself "Melinda" doffed her pants and exposed her thong underwear, for which she won the P2,500 cash prize and a case of San Miguel Beer.



San Miguel Beer

ON the other side of Siargao's surfing attraction dwells "immorality," according to the island's pastor. Young children (right) watch a "sexy babes" contest after an international surfing competition last Saturday. The contest was participated in by women (top) from the audience who were told to "do the sexiest thing on stage for the guys." At stake was a P2,500 cash prize and a case of beer.

PHOTOS BY EDAN BAULETE

3 Army soldiers hurt in encounter with rebs

CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Three government soldiers were wounded during a 20-minute gun battle with suspected New People's Army rebels near the boundary of San Ildefonso and Doña Remedios Trinidad towns on Monday morning, reports reaching this camp said.

The reports, however, did not identify the wounded soldiers.

Reports said a team of soldiers from the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion led by 2nd Lt. Edmundo Tangonan was conducting patrol operations in Barangays Casalat-Akle and Sapang Bulak in the boundary of the two Bulacan towns when they were attacked by a group of 30 heavily armed rebels.

On Wednesday last week, suspected NPA rebels burned several equipment and machines in a quarry site at Barangay Laog in Angat town.

Police said the rebels poured gasoline on three backhoes, four cranes and a power generator when they attacked the quarry site. No one was hurt in the attack, police said.

Supt. Fernando Villanueva, chief of the provincial police's first mobile group, said the rebels destroyed at least P3 million worth of equipment.

The NPA's Guerrilla Front Committee in Eastern Bulacan claimed responsibility for the attack.

In Zambales, suspected communist rebels raided the compound of two construction firms in Botolan town on Thursday night and burned at least six construction equipment, a jeep and a crusher plant, belated police reports said.

No one was reported killed in the attacks but spouses Martin and Lapaz Tabunday, caretakers of the plant of Roma Construction Co., were hurt after the suspects tied them into a tree. *Carmela Reyes and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

'Lumad' children . . .

From page A1

their decision to wage a war against the communists.

"According to them, they could no longer bear the atrocities committed by the rebels to their communities," he said.

Tribal war

A few years back, Mandaya leaders launched a *pangayao* or tribal war against the NPA. They even solicited firearms and support from government officials.

Gov. Palma Gil declined to give them firearms, saying it would not do them any good.

Aquino said the military had started arming the *lumad*, although Army officials denied this.

Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said the military understood why the *lumad* were itching to fight the NPA.

The rebels had been harassing members of the tribal communities, Dagudag said, but only those who have qualified as militiamen could be given firearms.

The NPA's Antonio Nerio Antao Command, which operates in the province, disputed the military's claim. On the contrary, it said, Mandaya has always been supportive of the revolutionary movement.

"In truth, the heart of the Mandaya lumad in Davao Oriental is with us because of the continuing oppression being inflicted by the government to them, like the entry of mining and logging companies that have displaced thousands of tribal people from their communities," the rebel unit said in a statement.

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BUSINESS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

3 die in runway drag race

A BLACK Honda Civic lies in a heap of twisted metal at the bottom of a 250-ft ravine after a fatal drag race along the Loakan airstrip in Baguio City on Monday. TOOTS SOBERANO

BAGUIO CITY—Three university students were killed and three others seriously injured after their cars fell off a ravine at the end of the runway of the Loakan Airport here early yesterday.

Police said the drivers of the two cars apparently lost control during an illegal drag race on the airport's runway at about1 a.m. yesterday.

Killed were Maricel Aquino, 17, and Jing Jing Juan, 16, both of San Manuel, Pangasinan; and Gloria Apilado, 17, of San Fernando City in La Union province. They were students at the University of Baguio here.

The three were riding in a Toyota Corolla driven by Aldwin Sombrito, 21, who was seriously hurt. Sombrito's car plunged at least 30 meters to a rocky bottom.

The other car, a Honda Civic driven by Raymund Simsim, had a shallower fall, injuring the driver and his unidentified passenger.

Police said the youths had decided to race at the airport after an evening at a disco.

After driving through an unguarded gate at Loakan, the cars raced along the unlit runway, apparently lost control and hurtled down a ravine at the runway's end, said police investigator Silverio Tuazon.

Police are preparing charges against the drivers who were both without licences. They were also not wearing seatbelts, said Tuazon.

It was the second fatal drag-racing accident at the Baguio airport. Two students were killed last January.

UB president Virgilio Bautista said he would raise the security issue at the Loakan airport with Department of Transportation and Communication officials here. He said the Air Transportation Office should have provided the runway with safety facilities.

He said each of the victims received P65,000 from the university to cover funeral and other expenses. The bodies of the slain students were taken to their home provinces yesterday. *Jovelyn Reyes, Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Tiongco threatens power cut-off, wants Pelco probed

By Alcuin Papa

CONTROVERSIAL businessman Alfredo Tiongco yesterday called for an investigation into the finances of the Pampanga Electric Cooperative (Pelco) even as he threatened to permanently cut off the electricity supply of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Pampanga hometown.

In a press conference yesterday, Tiongco said he would not let Pelco use his power plant in Barangay San Jose Gumi, Lubao, Pampanga unless the cooperative pays the P14 million that Pelco owed him.

Tiongco claimed that the P14 million represented Pelco's arrears for the three years and four months that it has leased his power station.

On Sept. 26, Pelco threatened to disconnect Tiongco's cement plant in San Jose which it said owed it some P3.6 million in unpaid bills.

In response, Tiongco shut down his power station, cutting off electricity supply to 29 barangays in Lubao.

Power was restored last Friday after compromise talks were scheduled for yesterday evening.

"I only asked for P500,000 per month but I have not been paid a single centavo for the past three years or so. Now they have the nerve to inform me of the disconnection when I am the owner of the power plant that supplies electricity to my factory," Tiongco said.

He said Pelco officials have refused to discuss the problem with him.

He said Pelco should "just offset my arrears of P3.6 million against the P14 million it owes me."

Tiongco also called for an investigation into the finances of Pelco as he was puzzled over its inability to pay him.

"I was told their collection from consumers in their area amounted to P36 million. Their share amounts to 20 percent, or P7 million. Where then did the money go and how come they can't pay me a measly P500,000 a month?" asked Tiongco.

Tiongco built the power station to supply electricity to his cement plant, the same one that police raided a few years ago on the suspicion that it was being used to store drugs. Charges against Tiongco were dismissed by the courts.

That same year, Tiongco allowed Pelco to use his power station for one year to supply electricity to some 60,000 residents. When that period expired, Tiongco said he tried to collect the lease payments from Pelco without success.

Tiongco said it was time Pelco operated a substation that the President had funded so he can use his power station to expand his businesses.

PCGG loses commissioner; 2 seats now waiting to be filled

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government lost one of its five commissioners when commissioner Jorge Sarmiento resigned effective today after serving the antigraft body for three years.

Sarmiento, whose departure left the PCGG with two seats vacant, actually resigned three months ago, saying he wanted to "move on."

But PCGG chair Haydee Yorac prevailed on him to stay on until the commission could find a suitable replacement so that the effectivity date of his resignation was repeatedly changed.

Sarmiento assumes the presidency of United Coconut Chemicals (Cocochem), a sequestered private firm being managed by the PCGG. Cocochem is one of the companies under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) allegedly set up by Marcos crony businessman Eduardo Cojuangco using coconut levy funds.

Sarmiento said he would not be completely cutting off ties with the PCGG as "the PCGG still has a say in Cocochem."

Sarmiento said that Yorac understood his situation. "Three years is quite long for me. I just feel that I have to move on," he said.

He became president of Cocochem on Sept. 2. His resignation was originally set to take effect Aug. 31.

Sarmiento, who joined the PCGG in 1999 during the Estrada administration, became PCGG officer-in-charge when President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in January 2001. He was reappointed by Ms Macapagal who named three commissioners, including Yorac as chair.

He was the commissioner in charge of finance and administration at the time of his resignation.

Commissioner Ruben Carranza said Sarmiento's departure would leave the PCGG a bit crippled. The PCGG being a collegial body, all meetings require a quorum. With only three commissioners left, not one of them can afford to be absent, Carranza said.

State medical budget cuts scored

MANY "charity" patients are leaving government hospitals before completing treatment, or even untreated, because of the institutions' failure to provide medical services for free, according to a health group opposed to the 25 percent cut in the budget of state hospitals.

Many of the patients who go home untreated eventually die, said the Coalition for Health Budget Increase (CHBI).

"Although we still have government hospitals around, they are no longer giving the poor free or cheap medical services," it said.

The group also claimed in a statement that there has been an increase in the number of patients dying in government hospitals.

The CHBI has blamed the government's alleged decision to prioritize the payment of debt services, military spending and pork barrel allocation over health services.

It said the state hospitals were in such a sorry state they cannot even treat ordinary wounds for free and charity patients are required to buy their own bandages.

There are also no more free medicines after suppliers stopped deliveries because of the hospitals' failure to pay.

The group condemned what it called "the apparent indifference and uncaring stance of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit toward the worsening plight of patients and health workers alike."

"He has taken a position against the best interest of the people," the CHBI said.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Dayrit for comment.

Dayrit is said to have made himself scarce after the controversy at the Lung Center of the Philippines broke out.

Suspended LCP director Fernando Melendres has questioned his suspension by Malacañang for alleged graft charges, pointing out that Dayrit was also facing investigation for alleged irregularities by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

The CHBI is made up of various health groups, including the Alliance of Health Workers and the PGH Physicians Association.

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL *Founding Chairman*

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Law

RAUL Palabrica, who occasionally writes commentaries on legal issues in the INQUIRER, has pretty much taken care of the pseudo-legal arguments put up by the congressmen. On the notion that the judiciary is violating the separation of powers, or indeed usurping authority that doesn't belong to it, by canceling Mark Jimenez's P1-million bail, Palabrica shows this isn't so at all. The Constitution is clear: Lawmakers make laws, the courts enforce them. Lawmakers may not be exempt from the laws they make.

The Supreme Court is not infringing on Jimenez's right to act as a lawmaker by denying him bail. It is simply exercising its own right to enforce the law. Jimenez is accused by the United States of violating its laws, and we have an extradition treaty with the United States. The courts have a right to treat Jimenez—or any public official for that matter, elected or not—according to the terms of that treaty.

Jimenez does not stop being a congressman while in detention. And if he is cleared by American courts after he is brought to the United States and tried there, he can always revert back to the elected official that he was. There is no violation of the separation of powers there at all.

Immunity from suit, which elected officials are presumed to have, and which Jimenez's allies in Congress are invoking, does not apply to this case at all. Immunity from suit merely means an elected public official may not be sued for the things he says in a privilege speech or the things he does in aid of legislation. It does not mean that he cannot be sued for murder, or theft, or any crime in the Penal Code. Or in Jimenez's case, swindling and making illegal contributions to electoral campaigns, which is something other countries like the United States take seriously (as well we should).

Jimenez himself says Speaker Jose de Venecia, who has advised him to cooperate with the authorities and plea bargain with the United States, misses the point. "What we are fighting for here is a Filipino's right to bail under our Constitution," he said.

In fact, it is Jimenez who misses the point. The Constitution proclaims above all that no man may be above the law—not presidents, not congressman. And the law on extradition is pretty clear in its contents. He and his House colleagues do not want that law, they can always move to amend or scrap it. But until they do, it has to be obeyed.

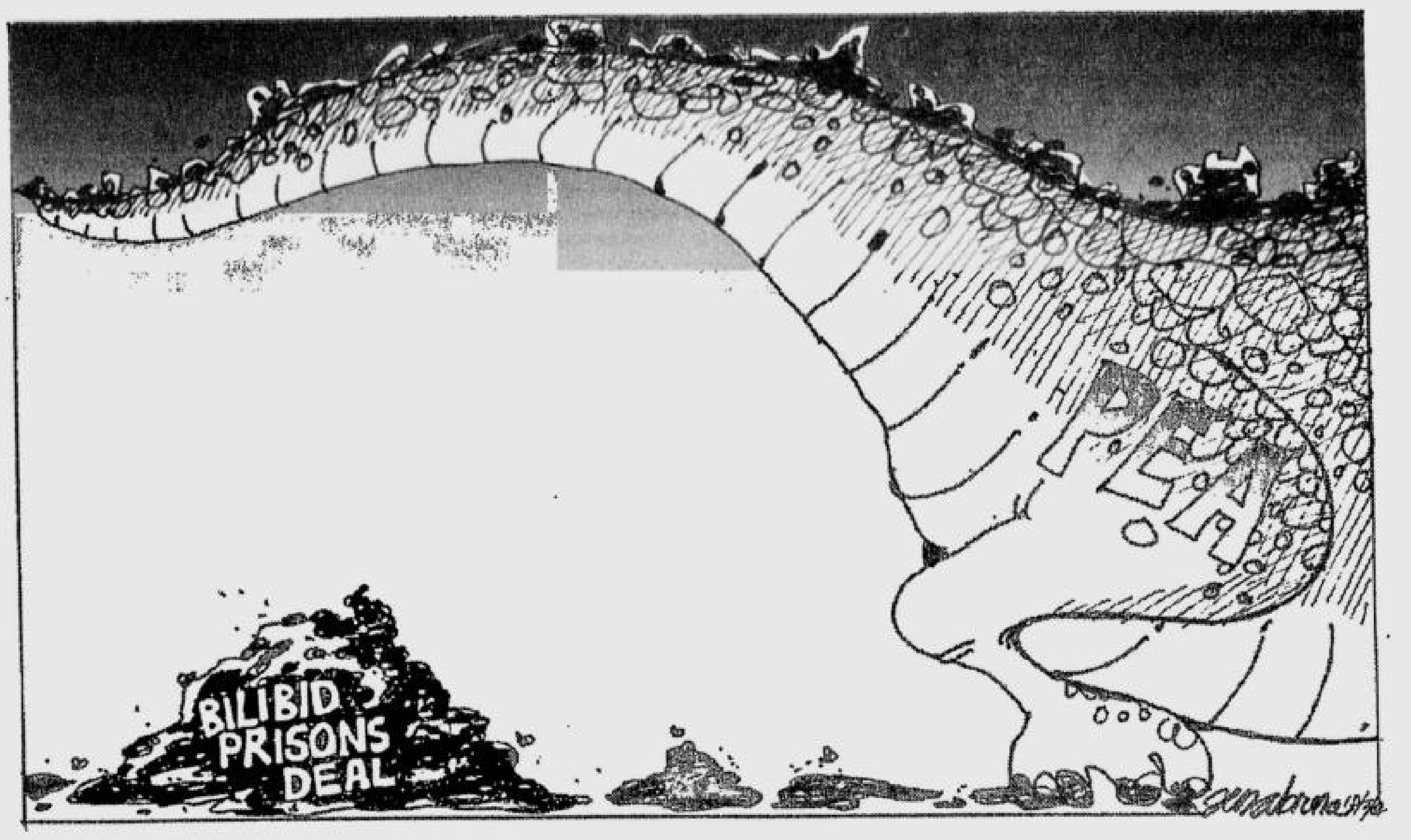
Nor is this a case about sovereignty. What is ironic in fact is that our congressmen should discover sovereignty when one of their own is accused of a crime and not when their country's territory is being infringed upon and their people's ability to enforce their will is being compromised. Not one of those who are ardently protesting Jimenez's prosecution in the United States once thought to protest the unconstitutionality of war games that exceed the prescribed limits and American planes that routinely develop "engine trouble" and land anywhere they want in the country. Had they been a little more consistent with their defense of the Constitution and sovereignty, we might be a little more inclined to believe them. But as it is, they merely conjure the thought that the devil himself may quote Scripture to suit his purposes.

De Venecia himself suggests that Jimenez stand down of his own volition. That will be good when it happens. But if he doesn't, well, we'll know for sure how resolute the government is about fighting crime in the next few days. It can't punish sidewalk vendors who are obstructing traffic and treat with kid gloves congressmen who are obstructing justice.

And disorder

REP. Didagen Dilangalen says Congress will arrest anyone who arrests Jimenez. Well, it is good to know he is on Jimenez's side. The last time he tried to defend someone with equal zeal and said things like this, he ended up sparking a public revolt. That was when he tried to prevent Chavit Singson from spilling the beans on his former patron and pal, Joseph Estrada. Dilangalen ended up infuriating the public and causing the man he was trying to defend to be impeached and tried. Maybe he'll do the same thing for Jimenez.

Meanwhile, it's worth contemplating that we have people like Jimenez and Dilangalen in Congress. Someone who is accused of serious crimes and another who likes to defend people like those. And we call them lawmakers.



Sex and Piatco's Terminal 3

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DO you know that Nayong Pilipino has been destroyed for nothing? Despite widespread opposition from the public and from employees, the theme park was destroyed to give way to a cargo terminal to complement Piatco's Terminal 3 for passengers. An underground tunnel was to connect the two terminals. But now the cargo terminal has been scrapped. The cruelest thing is that Nayong Pilipino has already been razed, and it would need many millions of pesos to rebuild it. That's how we waste our scarce money.

Why was the cargo terminal scrapped? Because the underground terminal was scrapped; it was too costly. The cargo will have to be moved overland, out in the open. And the US Federal Aviation Administration did not approve of that. It was a security risk. It was so easy for anybody to plant a bomb among the cargo while in transit. So no tunnel, no cargo terminal. Besides, the Piatco contract does not authorize it to put up or operate a cargo terminal—or a shopping mall inside Terminal 3.

* * *

Terminal 3 can't be opened by December as reported the other day in media, according to Presidential Adviser Gloria Tan-Climaco, the person who knows most of the details of the controversial terminal. The building itself may be finished but the terminal can't be operational. It will take months more to install the equipment and machines and test them. Plus the different airlines will have to move in and fix their offices. On top of everything, the controversy over the terminal, or the fate of Piatco, is far from resolved. Who's going to operate the terminal? It's still up in the air.

Like a quarrelling couple, Fraport, the German partner, wants to divorce its Filipino partner who own 60 percent of the corporation while investing only a pittance for the capital, according to Climaco. If couples cheat each other, corporations also do.

* * *

And you haven't heard the most salacious part of the scandal. The manipulators behind Terminal 3 used sex to get what they want. Somebody has a stable of beautiful women to convince hard-headed people who are not very cooperative. And there are three powerful women in a related organization. What is their purpose there, we don't know.

And—get this—a German official was reportedly caught copulating with his secretary on top of a desk in the main office in Germany. The woman was fired immediately but not the man. Talk of gender prejudice. The man was fired, too, when he made another mistake.

Here's more: A German official sent here for Terminal 3 refuses to go back home. He has been persuaded to stay here permanently with a fat salary and other perks. He has sent for his German wife and they have set up house in an exclusive village in Makati.

* * *

Traffic around the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City has become progressively worse because the officials in charge of traffic don't know what they're doing. In the beginning, traffic around the rotonda moved in opposite directions, thus defeating the purpose of a rotonda where traffic is supposed to move in one direction around it. Seven roads empty into the Elliptical Road and vehicles have to stop at each intersection, thus slowing traffic.

After this column campaigned to make it one-way, counterclockwise, the traffic managers relented. But the middle islands remain and vehicles going to the inner lane still stall traffic at the intersections. They should have been removed but the excuse is that without them pedestrians would be at risk while crossing the wide street. So breaks were made on the islands so vehicles can go in and out of the inner lane without hampering traffic at the intersections.

For a while, traffic moved smoothly, until somebody convinced the traffic managers to put traffic lights in all six intersections. Traffic signals are not needed here, but no traffic signals, no commissions. So very expensive and supposedly "smart" traffic lights were installed in all six intersections. Although traffic was supposed to move smoothly without stopping around the rotonda, they now have to stop at the traffic lights at the intersections. And although vehicles are supposed to turn right upon entering the rotonda, they are now allowed to cross the outer lane to enter the inner lane to make the traffic lights necessary. Also, the breaks on the islands were closed with steel fences to force vehicles to enter and exit the inner lanes at the intersections where the lights are.

As proof that the traffic managers don't know what they're doing, the steel fences are constantly being moved around. Some intersections and some breaks are closed one day, then they're opened and others closed the next day. And so traffic piles up at the intersections. It is very stressful to drive around the Circle although the park inside is supposed to be for relaxation. Motorists don't know what they will encounter from day to day.

Well, things might soon improve. Somebody who knows what he is doing has finally arrived. MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the middle islands would be removed. The traffic lights have been turned off or put on blinking yellow. But vehicles are still allowed to cross the outer lane to enter the inner lane thus still stalling traffic. With the islands removed, they can no longer do that and have to turn right and merge with the flow of traffic. They can gradually go to the inner lane without blocking traffic. At least two pedestrian overpasses will be put up.

There is only one problem: There is no money for it.

Doctrines

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DISSENTERS in the British Parliament and Capitol Hill have seized on the dangers of the doctrine of "preventive strike." As well they should. The doctrine is a recipe for plunging the world into darkness.

At the very least, it is based on faith rather than reason. All you have to go by is the word of the intelligence community, which in practically every country in the world has distinguished itself only by the lack of it. What it is known everywhere for is not its intelligence but its paranoia. Or all you have to go by is the word of someone like George Bush that a country poses a threat to "our way of life," as he puts it, to justify aggression.

As far as that goes, his call for the United Nations to send an inspection team to Iraq has reached Catch-22 levels. First, he said Iraq wasn't complying with the UN demand and so was inviting war. When Iraq agreed to admit a UN inspection team, he said the inspection team would be confined only to certain areas and not be allowed to go where it pleased. When Iraq agreed to allow the inspection team to go where it wanted, he said (echoed by Tony Blair in the British Parliament) Iraq had mobile silos to move the nuclear and germ bombs around and prevent their detection.

So if the inspection team finds the dreaded bombs, they exist. If not, they exist anyway. Either way, it justifies a preventive strike.

As Jacques Chirac pointed out well before the American and British lawmakers, you agree to a preventive strike, what is to prevent India from bombing Pakistan, or China Taiwan, on the same grounds? Completely fortuitously, while the wisdom of preventive strike was still being debated, Vladimir Putin showed how dangerous it could be by threatening to bomb Chechnya for the same reason: the Chechens were a threat to Russia. Now, unless you agree further that the doctrine of "preventive strike" may only be used by superpowers—which reposes it solely in the hands of the United States, it being the only superpower left in the world, any Tom, Dick and Vladimir can always invoke it.

But there is one other doctrine alongside this which is even more dangerous although it has gotten scant attention. That is the doctrine that the United States—or any coalition it spawns—has the right to intervene to destroy a leader who is cruel to his people. Both doctrines blast to kingdom come the foundations of international relations as we know it.

I protested the second as far back as last year during the US war on the Taliban. That war wasn't just justified on the basis of Afghanistan playing host to Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida. (Have you noticed, incidentally, that Bin Laden has been completely forgotten and replaced by Saddam Hussein as the devil incarnate?) It was justified on the basis of the Taliban being execrably tyrannical to its own people. The latter in fact became the overriding justification of the war in time: The war wasn't meant to be a retaliation for 9/11, it was meant to free the Afghan people from a barbaric rule.

The same thing is being used to justify a war against Iraq today. Blair's pitch to the British Parliament shows it abundantly. The reason for eliminating Saddam Hussein, he says, is not just that he is accumulating weapons of mass destruction but that he is decimating his own people, particularly the rebellious Kurds, through a policy of attrition. (Not quite incidentally, several Kurdish leaders, who are bitterly opposed to Saddam, have protested a US war against Iraq, saying that is not the answer to their problems.) Blair had a whole spiel, replete with images, about Saddam's torture chambers and campaign of genocide against his own people.

I said then that the seemingly lofty idea of taking military action against another country to save its people from its leaders was a most barbaric one. Like preventive strikes, it is a recipe for global catastrophe. What is to prevent the Muslim countries in turn from attacking the heathen ones on the ground that their rulers are decadent and ungodly? What is to prevent Suu Kyi supporters in other countries from attacking Burma to install her as head of government? A country's affairs are its own. Its liberation is its own. A "liberation from the outside" is no liberation at all, it is merely replacing one set of chains for another.

More importantly, this is clearly a case of letting him who has no sin cast the first stone. What is particularly breathtaking about Bush's and Blair's denunciations of Saddam's tyranny is their forgetfulness of America's role in propping up the most savage regimes ever invented by man in various parts of the globe in the 1970s and 1980s. And indeed, America's continuing role in propping up tyrannical regimes in various parts of the world—what is Pervez Musharraf's rule in Pakistan but that?—and turning the military and paramilitary forces in those countries, the same groups that butchered hundreds of thousands of people during the rule of the old tyrants, into the flag bearers of the holy crusade against terrorism.

These are dangerous times, but I am glad that the silence has been broken in many parts of the world. Not least in the United States, where until recently a whole nation seemed to have been cowed by a 21st century version of McCarthyism, one that derided dissension as lack of patriotism, or treason. Bush tried that tack last week with Capitol Hill, saying the lawmakers who were not with him did not have the interest of the country at heart, but he was roundly castigated by several senators. "Tell that to the Vietnam vets," one said angrily, "that they do not have the interest of the country at heart."

Thankfully, sanity has a way of pushing out of madness, like tufts of grass from out of the rubble.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Let's save on fuel

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo needs the support of the citizenry in her campaign to cut down on fuel consumption in the light of the darkening war clouds over Iraq, which could affect both the supply and price of oil. The exhortation to save on oil is a matter of national security as well as personal practicality. If war breaks out in the Middle East, prices could shoot sky-high, making oil unaffordable to many. In addition, oil supply could be jeopardized, even temporarily, which is why the government is linking up with our oil-producing neighbors in Asean.

The President has noted that our dependence on oil has gone down tremendously (to only 21 percent), so we are not as vulnerable as during the first Gulf War in the early 1990s, but still, no one can predict the scale or length of a possible conflagration in the Middle East. Hence, it really behooves on every citizen to save on fuel.

Our 21-percent dependence on oil is reflected most in the transportation sector. Thus, the key is to use the mass transport system such as the MRT and LRT whenever possible. Another way to save is planning our use of vehicles carefully so waste can be minimized. And above all, let's walk whenever it is possible. It's good for the heart, too.

* * *

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga, who has authored textbooks on public and private international law, has come out in favor of the Supreme Court's hearing out a motion for reconsideration by Mark Jimenez, "without his being jailed in the meantime." Jimenez still has yet to file such a motion (he has 15 days from the issuance of the Sept. 24 decision on his bail cancellation), but he can be expected to do so. Salonga has analyzed various scenarios likely to befall him, following the different positions taken by the SC justices.

* * *

If the SC denies Jimenez's motion for reconsideration and stands by its decision, says Salonga, the fugitive will be promptly extradited to the US where his lawyers can fight for his liberty on the 47 bailable counts against him. But if the Court follows the recommendation of Justices Josue Bellosilo and Reynato Puno to remand the issue to Manila regional trial court, it simply means that the SC "decided not to decide the question of bail." That is "passing the buck" to the lower court which had already decided to grant bail on July 2, 2001 (causing the justice department to appeal). If this second course is taken by the SC, Salonga sees the Jimenez case dragging for at least three more years, possibly more, after languishing in the courts for three years since the US filed the extradition petition in 1999. This is why, he notes, the Sept. 24 decision called this approach a "cop-out."

Frankly, I cannot see the SC remanding the bail issue to the RTC. It would make the Court look like it caved in to pressure.

* * *

Salonga painted a third scenario: that the SC acts on the MR of Jimenez by denying the government's petition for the lifting of the RTC's bail order, and granting him all the rights to which an accused is entitled in a criminal case. This was the position of Justices Jose Vitug, Consuelo Ynares Santiago and Alicia Sandoval-Gutierrez. If this happens, says Salonga, Jimenez "will remain free indefinitely" and it will look "as if the Philippines did not enter into any extradition agreement at all."

I cannot see this happening also.

* * *

Salonga also cites some facts noted by the ponente, Justice Artemio Panganiban, and concurred in by Justice Antonio Carpio on the possible flight by Jimenez. Congressmen supporting Jimenez argue that he will not flee, but Carpio noted that he escaped from the US when he was about to be indicted for serious criminal offenses, where he is facing a maximum term of more than 100 years if convicted on all counts. Carpio noted that Jimenez entered into an agreement with the US Justice Department in August 1998 calling for his return, but he did not honor this.

Salonga says this is why, "from the point of view of the majority (of justices), having done it once and having refused to honor his agreement with the US authorities, the reasonable prima facie presumption—considering the gravity of the charges, his capacity to flee, in the light of his financial resources—is that he would likely escape if and when it becomes absolutely necessary and if given the opportunity."

* * *

Some readers called up to ask how to get in touch with Armando Bartolome of GMB Franchise Developers, which packages franchises. This shows the citizens' interest in becoming entrepreneurs. Bartolome can be reached at 532-8386 and 535-0106, and at his website: www.gmbfranservice.com.

* * *

Earlier I wrote about a successful franchisor, Figaro Coffee Company, which already has nearly 30 classy coffee shops in Metro Manila, half of them franchises, among them those at Acceed, a hotel/conference center run by the Asian Institute of Management, and at the Petron Mega Plaza Lobby on Gil Puyat Avenue, both in Makati. Figaro has recently invaded highly competitive Hong Kong by putting up Figaro Silvercord at the Silvercord Mall on Canton Road, Kowloon side.

We really can be proud of Figaro's success, as it is all Filipino, including its *barako* coffee beans. If you are looking for a Pinoy shop to patronize, that's Figaro. To ensure a steady supply of *barako* coffee, CEO Pacita "Chit" Juan put up the Figaro Coffee Company Foundation, which supports coffee farmers around the country and seeks to prevent the coffee industry's extinction. To make sure that its HK coffee shop gets a steady supply of barako coffee, Figaro has to fly it there weekly.

Media power and NGO power

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

NOBODY doubts any longer the power of the media. There are some, in fact, who declare that it's not the people in government who are running the country, but the media since they dictate the agenda and determine the priorities of government.

The media have the power to inform, educate, persuade and entertain. Unfortunately, they also have the power to sow disinformation, foster ignorance, sensationalize and entertain by appealing to the lowest common denominator and the basest instincts of human beings.

Aside from having its own media outlets, the government seeks to "use" the media all the time, from fielding public service announcements to having officials guest on public affairs shows, from staging events for maximum media coverage to putting the right "spin" on news commentary and coverage. Business, too, has learned how to harness the media's power, mainly by bankrolling it through advertising while using the media's reach to build goodwill as well as to sell more products and services.

Civil society, on the other hand, seems to maintain an ambivalent relationship with the media. While non-government groups recognize how the media can be used to bring advocacies to public attention, there's also the lingering fear, justified by past experience, of the media's propensity toward sensationalizing and over-simplifying.

Which is how NGOs, the third "leg" of the social "threefolding" that includes government and business, have come to concede the media ground to the two other sectors. Almost by default, they have ended up largely absent from the media, thereby "silencing" the voices of the poor and marginalized whom civil society purports to represent and work for, and keeping the rest of society ignorant of NGO concerns and positions.

* * *

LATE last year, CCI Asia Television, an independent broadcast content provider which was behind the creation of the successful "Lakbay TV" channel, launched "Isla," an "advocacy channel" that seeks "to harness people power to become a driving force in nation-building by communicating simple and replicable ways by which socioeconomic, political, cultural and environmental problems can be solved." As Caloy Abrera, CCI Asia chair, puts it, "Isla" is all about finding solutions to the nation's problems, and not merely uncovering them and holding them up to public scrutiny.

Abrera, whose background is marketing and communications, says he is more interested in using the media to create hope rather than foster hopelessness. The "constant bombardment of disheartening developments fueling a negative self-image and helplessness" among Filipinos, led Isla's founders to seek ways to: "offer a climate of hope, empower a community of advocates and evolve an ecosystem of transformation." At the same, they hope to "convince key corporations with major investments in the country" about the importance of a channel like Isla.

* * *

AT THE MOMENT, Isla airs from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on cable channels Dream Broadcasting (16), Destiny (47) and Home (42) as well as on provincial and international channels via satellite. There's also an "Isla Hour" on NBN Channel 4 from 12 nn to 1 p.m. on weekdays ("as an alternative to the lunchtime variety shows," says Abrera), two hours of Isla on SBN 21 (6 to 8 p.m. on weekdays), an hour on Zoe Channel 11 (7 to 8 p.m. daily, an alternative to soap operas) and four hours daily (6 to 10 p.m.) on Marianas Cable 46 that serves Guam and Saipan.

Not exactly broadcast hegemony yet, but as Abrera explains, that was never CCI Asia's goal. What they hoped to accomplish, instead, was to provide content-with-a-difference to viewers searching for "alternative" fare. Abrera says one cannot and should not underestimate the reach and power of cable TV. Though reaching just under 10 percent of all households with TV sets today, Abrera says cable's reach is broadening and the appeal to niche audiences means content is reaching the viewers they're precisely aimed at.

An unforeseen problem though has been the rather tepid response from the NGO community. "NGOs seem to think media exposure is an unnecessary expense," muses Abrera, though he begs to disagree.

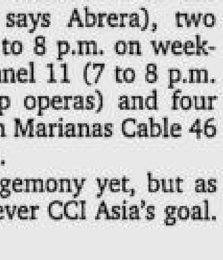
* * *

ABRERA cites the experience of an organization of blind masseurs whose services were featured in "Isla." A few days later, the masseurs reported that their phones were already ringing off the hook with bookings from people who had seen them on Isla.

For a minimal investment in a production budget, an NGO, or consortium of NGOs, will not only get a professionally-produced, broadcast-quality documentary or series of shorts, but free air time and repeat showings on Isla. While most funders prefer that an NGO involve itself more in service delivery, Abrera says the use of media for advocacy may in fact broaden an NGO's services, attract new members and supporters, and even local funders.

There's a niche in Isla for any organization involved in change and development. For now, Isla's hours are divided among the following segments: "Teknika" on alternative and sustainable businesses and livelihood projects; "Komunidad" on community-based initiatives; "Medika" on health-related advocacies; "Ekolohiya" on environmental issues; "Kultura" on Filipino identity and consciousness; "Pangarap" on how Filipinos, individually and collectively, cope with and profit from globalization; "Newsbreak on TV," a TV version of Newsbreak magazine; "Ulat ng Bayan" on findings of Pulse Asia surveys; and "Specials" on developments across sectors.

The streets of Manila



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

ANOTHER observation about Manila at the turn of the century was that it had probably double the number of vehicles found in any other city of comparable size. Keeping a carriage did not signify social prominence "for about everybody has one, except the leper and other beggars." Only at siesta time was the Escolta and the Bridge of Spain free of "stylish landaus, Victorias, four-wheeled *calesas* and two-wheeled *carromatas*."

Aside from private vehicles, "thousands more" of these one-horse, two-wheeled affairs were for hire. The *quiles* had a door behind with seats for four persons. The *carromata* was used all over the islands; it was built specifically to withstand rough roads and ungraded streets. Sometimes a whole family would crowd into one with a pony harnessed by rope or *bejuco*. If the animal balked at climbing an incline, three or four policemen would help to push amid a stream of Spanish oaths and curses. "Everything is driven with utter recklessness. Three or four vehicles would come tearing down the road abreast, full tilt, clearing the road, running over boys, killing dogs and roosters, and making one's hair stand on end."

The ponies were believed to be descended from horses brought in from Mexico which had somehow become dwarfed. They were barely four-feet tall but were known for their endurance and great speed. For the first months of the American occupation, the pony *carromata* formed the regular mode of transport and ambulance service. During the wet season, the strongest animals could carry 500 pounds.

Along the streets of Manila, one observed women from the working class walking in pairs or in groups, laughing and chattering "with head thrown back and figure rigidly upright, as if still carrying their water jugs or baskets of family washing on their heads." They had a distinctive way of dragging their bare, brown feet in a semi-shuffle, to keep their *chinilas* or heel-less slipper from dropping off. Their long and glossy hair was commonly worn loose. Two women meeting in the street pausing for a bit of gossip would suddenly produce their combs and set vigorously to work unraveling their tresses, regardless of the passersby and continue the process as long as the conversation lasts. A fruit vendor waiting for a customer to choose from her wares would do the same.

The Chinese barbers carried around a chair, a pair of scissors and a razor wherever they went and stopped at any place to oblige a customer with a shave or a haircut. There were also Chinese ear-cleaners with their little scoop who cleaned ears for a cent or two.

Mongrel dogs were always running around the streets and these proved very useful when the city was under siege by Aguinaldo's men. These went right into cooking pots.

There were vendors selling snakes around a bamboo pole, four or five men transporting furniture, Chinese grass cutters, milk and vegetable vendors, and water carriers ambling along with great earthen ware jars on their heads or crates suspended from a bamboo shoulder yoke.

Everyone smoked when they weren't chewing betel. Occasionally someone would pass with an unlighted cigar in his mouth until it gradually dissolved into pulp. This was called a dry smoke. Even conductors in tram-cars smoked cigars and customers had to be careful the ashes from the burnt end didn't end up in their face.

To survive in the tropics, John Barrett in Harper's Weekly advised: "Rise early, bathe in warm water, take a light breakfast. Work under a *punka* (overhead fan), do not venture into heat of the sun without a proper pith hat, helmet or lined umbrella. Eat a fair lunch or tiffin at noon, follow it with a siesta for an hour. Work till half-past four, bathe again and go out immediately for exercise: tennis, golf, polo, boating, shooting, cycling, riding, walking or whatever makes you perspire. Repair to your club but limit your stingahs (whiskies and sodas) to two. Bathe again and dine heartily but not heavily at eight with limited drinks. Keep your bowels regular. If dining alone, retire at 10. If dining out, excuse yourself at 11. Sleep with stockings or a pair of light flannel PJs or an abdomen belt under a mosquito net."

All the different nationalities had their own clubs, although it was acknowledged that the British had the most civilized one and invitations to their once-a-year ball were much sought after. The Germans ranked next to the British in importance and had even more members. There was a saying that "if an Englishman, a Spaniard and an American were to be shipwrecked on a desert island, the first would organize a club, the second build a church and the third start a newspaper."

The great drawback aside from the heat was the boredom. Sundays and holidays were spent in thin PJs, reading, smoking, card-playing or writing home. Not everybody could resist temptation under those conditions.

Among the natives many unions were entered into without benefit of clergy. (It is said that the high cost of the ceremony was the culprit. Since the practice continues up to the present, it must be more for convenience than cost.) If the man was a foreigner it was enough that a certain amount was deposited with the parents and an inexpensive establishment set up in the native quarters. After a year or two, the foreigner would leave, giving the girl a small amount. Despite that she would often easily find a husband who only demanded faithfulness in the future.

A meaningful holiday

YOUNG BLOOD

Gabi Espaldon

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN I asked a friend to tell me about her recent trip to China, she immediately launched into a long tale about the wonders of the Chinese *tiangge*: the cheap clothes, the P60 DVD and other good buys.

Frankly, I was disappointed. I expected to hear about the Chinese, the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, and all the things that make China what it is. Instead, I got a lecture on China's great shopping places.

I enjoy a good bargain as much as the next person, but I feel dismay when people would rather indulge their need for a new wardrobe than have a more meaningful holiday.

I once went to Europe and stood before some Greek ruins, and had one of the most amazing experiences of my life. Just staring at four or five pieces of pockmarked stones, one atop the other, I could almost feel civilizations long gone come to life again. I imagined thousands of ancient Greeks clad in robes and sandals, roaming the busy marketplaces of old. Amid the townspeople, slaves and merchants were the sages and philosophers throwing their queries at the bemused folk. Above the metropolis rose once again the pantheons and temples that reached toward the skies to honor and glorify their deities.

In Rome sounds seemed to resonate through the ancient amphitheater where the likes of Julius Caesar went to be entertained. Screams and cheers from the arena echoed in my mind, bringing back to memory the famous fights where gladiators sacrificed their lives for the pleasure of the masses. This awe inspiring experience, not the price of the latest Italian shoes, is what I remember of that particular vacation.

Many Filipinos who go abroad prefer to spend time shopping rather than appreciating the place for its historical and cultural worth. This attitude reflects a lifestyle where people have exchanged thinking for the instant gratification of the senses.

Because of life's many demands, producers have come up with cellular phones, ATMs, cup noodles, and a bevy of other instant products that offer instant gratification. It's quick, it's here, and it's now—no waiting needed. And because of this fast-paced lifestyle, it has become more and more difficult for people to stop and think.

I'll bet a year's allowance that most teenagers would much rather read a Grisham thriller than spend their precious free time trying to understand Hamlet. Why? Shakespeare lived in a time when English wasn't what it was today. He used words and sentence patterns that seem utterly incomprehensible and puzzling to the average teenager. Because of this, Shakespeare is reduced to a mere class requirement. For most people my age, reading Shakespeare is a very unpleasant ordeal, an activity that requires thinking and takes up a chunk of our free time. Some would even say that we have enough trouble trying to meet the demands of life, so why bother?

My concern for my culturally bereft generation doesn't end there. This lack of consciousness extends to music, food, entertainment, and the very way we live our lives. This void needs to be filled.

When we stand amid some old ruins or read some ancient scripts, there comes a moment when the beauty of human experience fills our souls and we experience a pure kind of pleasure, secure from the distractions of the material world. We feel a sense of goodness, of well being, of being one with humanity, and being connected with the past. We take part in a journey where our senses enrich our minds and spirits and not just our bodies.

Gabi Espaldon, 20, is an AB Communication senior at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Glasses

Rowena A. Carullo

I WORE my first pair of eyeglasses when I was only a senior in high school. It was a great relief for me, actually. I was having problems with my eyes since I was in third year. I didn't pay much attention to it at first, but when I couldn't read what was written on the blackboard, I knew that I really needed to wear glasses.

I was already feeling embarrassed whenever I had to ask my seatmate what was written on the board. Besides my friends and classmates were chiding me whenever I didn't smile at them or acknowledge their greeting. They thought I was being a snob, which wasn't the case at all. I just couldn't recognize them.

So I went to an eye clinic to have my eyes checked. I was found to be myopic. The ophthalmologist said this condition was caused by reading while lying down and reading in dim places.

I love reading, and indeed there were times when I couldn't put the book down even if it was already getting dark. I couldn't bring myself to get up and turn on the lights or move to a well-lighted place.

There were also times when I would lie down in bed and read. I found this to be more comfortable than reading while sitting. I guess I wasn't careful with my eyes then.

So there I was with my new glasses, and the world seemed clearer and brighter. But soon I found out that wearing glasses has its disadvantages, too. For one thing, I was branded as old-fashioned or a girl who looked too mature for my age. I didn't like that. I thought wearing glasses was supposed to give me the look of an "intellectual." Instead, I was made to feel like I looked like a *manang*.

When I finished college and began working, a fellow worker told me that I looked like Jessica Zafra. The truth is, I never looked like her or dressed like her. My eyeglasses weren't even the same as hers or Lisa Loeb's for that matter. Mine were small and gold-rimmed.

Eyeglasses are supposed to help vision-impaired people see clearly. But these days people tend to brand us as geeks and nerds who love math (I hate math!), physics (ditto) and chemistry. They usually have this vision of us reading a pile of thick books in a library or working in a laboratory. Women like me who wear glasses are automatically judged as conservatives, especially if they happen to wear long-sleeved blouses or long skirts.

Another disadvantage is that I can't go out without my glasses. I don't get to see places and people clearly without them.

During our junior prom in college, I decided to leave my glasses at home since they didn't look good with my evening dress. I ended up very frustrated because I couldn't see clearly some of my classmates and friends who happened to sit far from me. I could only recognize them at close range.

The only time I don't wear my glasses is when I'm home. Fortunately, I can still see my surroundings without them. I can even read—up close, that is. It's only when I want to watch TV that I wear them.

Some people have suggested that I get rid of my glasses and buy a pair of contact lenses instead. They said I look better without them. I have considered that before, but the thought of how long it takes to clean the contact lenses isn't appealing.

Eye surgery is also out since I can't afford it. So I have to wear my good, old, reliable glasses.

Of course, every once in a while, I wish that I had 20/20 vision. But I know it's not going to happen. I'll just have to be contented with what I have right now. It's a small price to pay for being a bookworm.

Rowena A. Carullo, 25, works as a proofreader at Salesiana Publishers Inc.

Paoay church properly maintained

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I WOULD like to thank Belinda Olivares-Cunanan for her concern over the condition of the historic Paoay Church, which is becoming the centerpiece of the tourist trade in our beautiful province of Ilocos Norte.

However, I would like to take exception to some of her comments.

The truth of the matter is that the windows that "seem to be falling apart," as she put it, are really being taken down by the National Historical Institute (NHI) for restoration. Remember the church is more than 400 years old.

The "grasses that have crept over the sloping church walls outside" come from the seeds in bird droppings and are removed every year after the rainy season. The National Museum is tasked to do this laborious and dangerous job. They are testing some chemicals to apply to the coral stones to prevent the growth of the plants. However, they are also careful that the chemicals they use will not make the coral stones brittle and make them crumble under their own weight.

The roof of the church was recently replaced through a P5-million grant from Senate President Franklin M. Drilon solicited by the municipal government. This was implemented by the National Commission on Culture and Arts and the NHI.

A five-star restroom was also built beside the church, compliments of former President Fidel V. Ramos who visited the church during one Domingo Ramos and saw the need for a restroom that tourists and church-goers could use. The municipal government maintains it.

Everything done to the church and its premises is done with the approval of a task force composed of representatives of the NCCA, NHI, the National Museum, the provincial government of Ilocos Norte, the municipal government of Paoay, and the diocese.

—ANTONIO A. EVANGELISTA,
former mayor,
Paoay, Ilocos Norte

A long way to go

IF lethal injection is administered to one death convict a week, it would take the government 18 years to dispose of all the 1,015 convicts on death row in the national penitentiary. Assuming further that the Supreme Court would grant reprieve to 20 percent of those who have been sentenced to die or just die of other causes, it would still take 11 years and 6 months for government to get rid of these undesirable citizens at the rate mentioned. Then we could go into the Guinness Book of World Records for that dubious distinction.

—RINO M. BASILIO,
11 Cardinal Street,
Dominic I, Quezon City

Worthy and qualified

WE are aware that the Judicial and Bar council is now busy with processing candidates for the new Ombudsman. We believe this is a very important procedure to ensure that the most qualified will occupy the post and uphold the integrity of the Office of the Ombudsman through genuine service to people.

The service of UN Justice Romeo T.Capulong to the Filipino comfort women started 10 years ago. He was one of the original members of the Philippine panel of lawyers for the Filipino comfort women formed in December 1992. The panel assisted the 18 comfort women in filing the case against the Japanese government. The Post-War Compensation Suit was filed on April 2, 1993 at the Tokyo District Court. Unfortunately, the district court handed down a negative decision. An appeal was filed with the Tokyo Appellate Court on Oct. 23, 1998. The latter upheld the decision of the Tokyo District Court. On Dec. 20, 2000, the case was filed with the Supreme Court. A decision on the case is expected anytime this year.

In 2000, with the assistance of Capulong and Public Interest Law Center, Lila-Pilipina filed a class-action suit with the District Court of Colombia in Washington, D.C. by the virtue of the Alien Tort Claims Act. The case was dismissed and is now on appeal.

Last year, the Board of Trustees reiterated its confidence and trust in the legal expertise of Capulong and PILC as the legal adviser of Lila-Pilipina. We are so very lucky to have him and his colleagues serve the interest of Filipino comfort women pro bono.

We are very confident that Capulong will live up to the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman and serve the people to the best of his ability.

—RICHELDA EXTREMADURA,
vice chairperson/Coordinator, Lila-Pilipina Inc., 35 Scout Delgado St.,
Roxas District, Quezon City

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Whining for a living

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"I HAVEN'T eaten yet," the boy whimpered in Cebuano as he offered a shoeshine. I walked on, and a few meters away there was another shoeshine boy using the same line. They were all over, some loitering around the sidewalks, others inside restaurants, all in the vicinity of Davao's airport.

I found myself getting quite irritated, wanting to snap back something about most people not having eaten either. It was 6 p.m., rather early to be using this "I'm starving to death" ploy.

But then when I came in a few days earlier on a morning flight, I had gotten the same refrain from two teenage beggars, also at the airport. They came up to me, following me to the hotel van and just kept going about needing money to buy food when it was so clear they were going to use it to get more rugby or *shabu* to fry their brains.

What's disturbing is that this seems to be a growing trend. It started with the sampaguita child vendors deployed at night. The later the night, the younger the vendors got, including toddlers carrying infants. They'd offer the garlands, begging you to buy the flowers so they could go home and of course you knew they'd still be around two hours later.

I used to be quite hard-line about beggars since many of them are sent out into the streets by syndicates, but over the years, with the growing financial crisis, I usually give something. I've learned to keep coins in the car's ashtray, or to pick up a bag of pan *de sal* to give to the children, yes, including the sampaguita vendors.

My activist background tells me it's wrong. We've all heard that adage about how much it is better to teach someone to fish or to plant, rather than to dole out food, but the fact remains that we don't have enough safety nets and so the children, the blind, the elderly, displaced minorities, spill into the streets to beg.

What's disturbing are the gray areas, when offering services or vending takes on begging, or worse. We've all had to live with those watch-your-car boys, who don't offer but threaten. It's "We get to watch your car, or you get it scratched." The other week I had to dash into a building at UP for a quick errand. As I parked my car, two very young boys—probably 5 or 6 years old—offered to watch my car. I said sure, joking about how young they were and would they be able to fight a carnapper. "*Opo,*" they chimed.

I dashed in, dashed out and they were ready, palms stretched out. I gave them P5. They looked at me, ready to spit on the coin. *Singko lang?* I answered, "*Singko minuto lang.*"

They glared back and I thought, today's tykes, tomorrow's thugs, finding consolation in the fact they were at least being assertive. A few minutes later, at the Faculty Center, I had to deal with a group of kids who had no pretensions about selling flowers or watching your car—they begged, outright.

I don't know about the Davao shoeshine boys. I think they're legit, which is also disturbing because now you're getting a new generation of working kids who don't see anything wrong about whining for a living.

Two years ago, at the same airport, I did get a shoeshine, but a clandestine one. The shoeshine boy had approached me, almost having to whisper, "Shine, shine." I asked why he was whispering and he explained they weren't allowed to offer shoeshines. So we went off a distance, away from the guards, to get the shine. At that time I thought about writing the airport manager and asking why they couldn't give these kids a chance at earning a living, honestly and with dignity, maybe by setting aside space for them.

Now it seems the shoeshine boys are allowed to operate, but partly as beggars, and persistent ones at that. They follow you, hound you. The smart ones post themselves inside restaurants, almost as if to ask, "How can you eat when we haven't yet?"

There's more to all this than an economic crisis. I think that in many ways we perpetuate the mendicancy with our many dole-out programs. On some of these charity television programs, the name of the game is to evoke as much pity as you can. We give, but the giving is only to assuage our conscience while maintaining a safe distance from the poverty and misery. And the message to the poor is simple: "Where would you be without our dole-outs?"

The messages can be confusing for the young. On one hand we're telling them there's dignity in labor and that it's important to work hard, but they see, too, that you have to tug at people's heartstrings to make a sale.

In the end, I think the message that gets canceled out is that of honest labor. We're telling the kids, the sampaguita and the shoeshine services are incidentals, just props for a more effective way of making money: mendicancy.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Sharon draws heavy flak for bungling 10-day siege

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon came under wall-to-wall criticism Monday for the bungled 10-day siege of Yasser Arafat's compound, which was aborted under intense US pressure.

Several Cabinet ministers said Israel underestimated Washington's opposition to the operation and its determination to keep the focus on Iraq ahead of a possible US strike against Saddam Hussein.

In the Gaza Strip, a 43-year-old Palestinian woman was comatose after two Israeli tank shells hit her home and she was wounded by shrapnel, doctors and her brother said. Palestinians said the shells were fired without provocation.

The Israeli military denied tank shells were fired. It said soldiers fired assault rifles after mortar shells fell near an Army post.

At Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah, Israeli troops were out of sight Monday although they still controlled the town, as well as most other population centers in the West Bank.

A small bulldozer brought in by the Palestinians cleared some of the rubble. In the initial assault last week, Israeli troops leveled all but one building. Workers swept up shattered glass, fixed water pipes and tried to salvage air conditioners.

Ramallah residents, who had been under curfew for most of the siege, flocked to the largely demolished complex to take a closer look. Vendors quickly set up shop, selling ice cream, coffee and newspapers to the crowd.

Israeli troops withdrew from the compound on Sunday in what was seen in Israel as an unconditional surrender to US pressure. Sharon initially demanded that dozens of wanted men holed up with Arafat come out.

"Israel folded," read Monday's headline in the Maariv daily.

Immediately after Sharon informed his Cabinet on Sunday that troops must withdraw, Sharon left on a three-day visit to Russia.

"Sharon is leaving behind a colossal failure, the most notable failure since the beginning of his term in office," commentator Hemi Shalev wrote in Maariv.

The Cabinet approved the siege last week, in response to a suicide bombing on a Tel Aviv bus in which six people were killed. At the time, it was portrayed as a compromise between Sharon, who was pushing for Arafat's expulsion, and security chiefs who said ousting the Palestinian leader was counterproductive.

Several Cabinet ministers acknowledged Monday that they had misread the international map when they approved the blockade.

"We didn't consider (last week) how much the United States has already started counting down to the strike against Iraq," said Housing Minister Natan Sharansky. "The decision was made in haste, and this is the result."

Tourism Minister Yitzhak Levy also said the decision to besiege Arafat was based on "erroneous assessments." However, Levy and Cabinet colleague Dan Naveh said that they believed the embarrassment of the withdrawal would quickly be forgotten, and that the siege would weaken Arafat in the long run.

Government critics said Sharon failed to take into account that the operation against Arafat would interfere with US efforts to win Arab and UN support for a campaign against Iraq.

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat flashes the V-sign to supporters outside his office in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Sunday after Israel withdrew its forces from his compound. AP

Military commentator Alex Fishman wrote in the Yediot Ahronot daily that Sharon believed—erroneously—that he had been given a free hand against the Palestinians by US President George W. Bush. "His (Sharon's) ability to lead the administration over the past year and a half toward a common denominator of interests with Israel gave him delusions of grandeur," Fishman wrote.

Sharon also miscalculated the Palestinian response, with his expectation that the siege would make Arafat seek exile or give up the wanted men, critics said.

Arafat emerged strengthened from the blockade, which froze efforts by his Fatah movement to force him to share power and appoint a prime minister.

A poll released on Sunday found that 60.6 percent said they expected Arafat to be re-elected as leader of the Palestinian Authority if the Jan. 20 elections were held "under current conditions." *AP*

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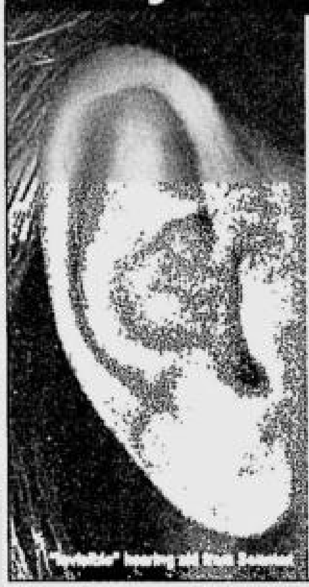

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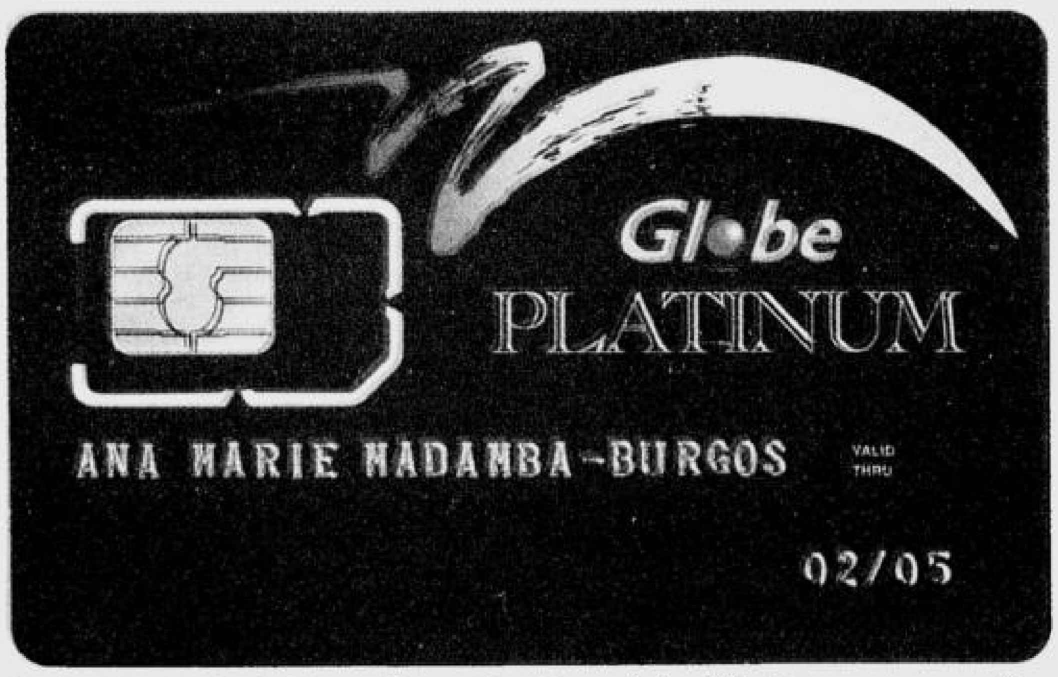

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US Congress divided over Iraq issue

WASHINGTON—Lawmakers still face a partisan divide over how to confront the threat posed by Iraq, although the White House hopes Congress will soon pass a resolution authorizing military force to topple Saddam Hussein.

Republicans and Democrats appearing on the Sunday talk shows said they hoped a resolution would win overwhelming support, even as they sparred over the United Nations' role and the severity of the threat from the Iraqi president.

Republican lawmakers, lining up behind President George W. Bush, said it was unlikely that Saddam would allow inspectors unfettered access to search for weapons of mass destruction.

"He is not going to allow them back in, because he has these weapons and materials and laboratories and he isn't about to give them up," said Sen. John McCain.

Democrats, including House members visiting Baghdad, urged the Bush administration to work closely with the United Nations and to let inspectors resume their work.

"You don't start out by putting the gun to their head and saying we're going to shoot you if you blink," said Rep. Jim McDermott, speaking from Iraq.

McDermott also suggested the president might be misleading the American people about the need for military action, something the White House swiftly denied.

Congress may consider the resolution this week, although negotiations on terms continue. Bush said Saturday that agreement was near and predicted that "soon we will speak with one voice."

Democrats say they will not give the president open-ended authority and are seeking to put more emphasis on a multilateral approach.

The Senate's top Republican, Trent Lott, said Sunday that he wanted a resolution that could attract as much support as possible.

"We're still working on language that can bring the largest number of Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, together," Lott said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Sen. Christopher Dodd agreed but said the key would be rooting the resolution in the United Nations as "primary responder."

By acting alone, Dodd said, the United States could lose the cooperation it needed in the larger war on terrorism.

Lawmakers also disagreed on the immediacy of the threat.

"There is no evidence that I have seen that indicates there is an imminent threat," Sen. Dianne Feinstein said on CNN's "Late Edition. There is time to build international support for US action, she said.

"What if you're wrong?" asked Sen. James Inhofe. "I'm not willing to wait until something happens to this country."

Speaking from Baghdad, McDermott and fellow Democratic Rep. David Bonior of Michigan said Iraqi officials assured them that they would allow weapons inspectors full access. *AP*

Inspectors haggle with Iraqis

VIENNA, Austria—Staking out a tough position, United Nations weapons inspectorson Monday opened talks with Iraq over a return to Baghdad by holding Saddam Hussein to his pledge of unfettered access to suspect sites.

Chief UN inspector Hans Blix told reporters at the Vienna headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency that the talks would operate under the assumption that nothing in Iraq—including Saddam's palaces—would be off-limits to inspectors hunting for nuclear, biological and chemical weaponry.

"The purpose of the talks is that if and when inspections come about, we will not have clashes inside" over what the inspectors will do, Blix said. Both sides will discuss "practical arrangements" for inspections, he said.

IAEA spokesperson Melissa Fleming said the success of a new weapons inspection mission would hinge on Saddam's promise of full cooperation.

Nearly four years ago, inspectors hunting for evidence of nuclear, biological and chemical weaponry withdrew from Iraq on the eve of US-British air strikes amid allegations that Baghdad wasn't cooperating with the teams.

"We're certainly aware of what happened last time," Fleming said Sunday. "But we uncovered Iraq's secret nuclear program, and we dismantled it. We were successful last time. If we get unfettered access, we will be successful again." *AP*

An F-14 Tomcat fighter takes off from the USS Abraham Lincoln deployed in the Arabian Sea to enforce the "no-fly" zone over Iraq. US forces are building up around Iraq as the world waits to see America's next move. AP

Anti-Iraq War march echoes 1960s protest

WASHINGTON—The slogans came out of an earlier era: Give peace a chance. We shall overcome. When will they ever learn?

So did many of the demonstrators. One even strummed Bob Dylan's anti-war creed, "Blowin' in the Wind," on his guitar as he marched.

"This feels like a resurgence of the anti-war movement," said one of its veterans, Deborah Vollmer, 54, of Chevy Chase, Maryland, who made her opposition to an Iraq war the centerpiece of her recent unsuccessful congressional campaign. Vollmer wore the classic anti-war button of a black peace sign over the American flag.

Others who marched against the Vietnam War three decades ago also took to the streets again Sunday to oppose a war with Iraq. They walked side by side with students who know about Vietnam from their history books. In all, police estimated that 2,500 people marched from Dupont Circle to Vice President Dick Cheney's house.

Pat Lant of Royal Oak, Michigan, walked with a sign that contained a flower and the slogan, "War is not healthy for children and other living things." Said Lant, 73, who rode on a bus full of demonstrators: "I've been carrying this sign for a long time."

One of her Michigan bus mates and another Vietnam protest veteran, Jane Kyriacopoulos, 69, of Detroit, said she needed to raise her voice again.

"Mothers of the world don't let our sons kill each other," she said. "We can't sit at home and do nothing, and we have to convince people that this is not the right thing to do. And I have to live with myself, and my children and grandchildren."

Just like most anti-Vietnam War protesters did not support Ho Chi Minh and the North Vietnam communists, most of those marching Sunday were no friends of Saddam Hussein. Rather, they called for alternatives to war to hold Iraq in check, such as bringing back the United Nations inspectors. *AP*

Man gets death for poisoning 38

BEIJING—A snack shop owner in China's eastern city of Nanjing was sentenced to death Monday for killing at least 38 people by lacing a competitor's food with rat poison, court officials said.

Chen Zhenping, who was arrested a fortnight ago, was sentenced by the Nanjing Number One Intermediate People's Court after a half-day trial.

"Under the law, he has 10 days to appeal the verdict. If he does not file an appeal, Jiangsu province's high court will review the verdict and then make a final decision on whether Chen will be executed," a court official said.

The sentencing follows one of China's worst public health disasters in recent years.

Chen was arrested on Sept. 14, a day after hundreds of people fell ill from eating breakfast snacks bought from a shop in Tangshan township in Nanjing city, state media reports at the time said.

Chen, who owned another snack shop in Tangshan, reportedly confessed to the crime, saying he poisoned fried dough sticks, sesame cakes and glutinous rice prepared by the Zhengwu Pastry Bar because he was jealous of the shop's success.

"Because of business competition, he was full of hatred for the Zhengwu shop's owner and then he set the poison and committed the crime," state television news said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Koizumi reshuffles Cabinet

TOKYO—In his first Cabinet reshuffle since taking office more than a year ago, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday fired a top economic adviser who shied away from reforms, underscoring his desire to get Japan out of its decade-long fiscal slump. Stressing the need for continuity, Koizumi retained most of his main ministers—including Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma and his two top economic advisers Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa and Heizo Takenaka, the economic and fiscal policy minister. But he cut Financial Services Minister Hakuo Yanagisawa, the nation's chief bank regulator, from his Cabinet. Yanagisawa has been criticized for shying away from aggressive fiscal measures to deal with Japan's troubled banking sector. Yanagisawa's position was assumed by Takenaka, who also retained his previous post, indicating to many Koizumi's desire to accelerate reforms and take a more bullish stance toward cleaning up Japan's banking morass. *AP*

Sex with underage girls

BANGKOK—A disgraced former Thai senator was sentenced to 16 years in jail Monday for having sex with underage girls, court officials said. The Thanya Buri district court outside Bangkok found Chalerm Promlert, 66, guilty of statutory rape with four girls under 15 years of age in 2000 and early 2001, when he was deputy speaker of the Senate. "The court orders him to jail for four years each for the four cases," a court official said. The law permits for a maximum jail term of 20 years for statutory rape. The court rejected as "unreasonable" the senator's defense that he was impotent and that on the days the girls claimed they had sex with him he was actually at work. The case caused a major scandal in January 2001 when senate leaders announced they were launching an investigation into Chalerm's indiscretions. Media reports at the time said the senator paid 4,000 baht (95 dollars) to a 17-year-old girl to arrange the meeting with four eighth-graders at a seedy motel in the Bangkok suburb of Pathum Thani. Chalerm was eventually forced to resign last year following a public outcry and concerns he would damage the credibility of the newly independent upper house. *AFP*

Ex-lover rebukes ex-premier

LONDON—A one-time government minister who revealed that she had an affair with former Prime Minister John Major says she's sad he does not have anything nice to say about her. Edwina Currie criticized Major after he said their four-year affair was the part of his life of which he was "most ashamed." Currie told The Times newspaper in an article printed Monday that, "He was not very ashamed of it at the time, I can tell you. I think I'm slightly indignant about that remark." Currie added she was pleased that the former prime minister had not been so "foolish" as to try to deny the relationship, but: "It's sad he was unable to say a kind word. These are secrets which have been kept for the best part of 15 years. There was a lot of pain involved in keeping those secrets." *AP*

Sex museum's opening postponed

NEW YORK—The much-anticipated opening of New York's "Museum of Sex" has been postponed, its organizers said on Monday. It was to have opened Saturday but Jim O'Shea, manager of visitor services for the museum, said it was not quite ready for its debut. "We had a crazy press week and that pushed back the construction work. There are wires on the floor and we don't want people to get hurt," Shea said. Several years in the planning and now set to open in the first weekend of October, the Museum of Sex will offer visitors an array of exhibits related to human sexuality, from erotic drawings to handmade handcuffs. The museum is housed in a five-story building on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue. *AFP*

Ferry disaster toll rises; 970 dead, missing

DAKAR, Senegal—Senegal's government promised answers Monday in the sinking of a state-run ferry after revealing that it was even more deadly than first announced, with 970 people believed missing or dead.

Only 64 people are known to have survived when the MS Joola overturned in the Atlantic Ocean off Africa's west coast in heavy winds four days ago. The toll of missing and presumed soared Sunday when the government announced that 1,034 were on board, not the 797 first announced.

In long, solemn queues through the weekend, thousands of people pored over photos of the bloodied, bloated victims of one of Africa's deadliest ferry accidents Sunday.

More than 350 bodies have been retrieved so far. Authorities plan to complete an investigation Monday into what caused the boat to topple over off Gambia, a narrow former English colony that divides north and south Senegal.

Grieving family members—studying photos of the dead in hopes of identifying rapidly decomposing victims—increasingly despair.

"Now there seems to be little chance they'll come back alive," said Tijane Jalow, 29, who had three brothers on board.

"This is awful, awful, awful. I'm inconsolable," he said, pinching his eyes.

On Sunday, the government arrived at the higher number of passengers by adding in 185 people who had boarded at a second stop and the 55-member crew, said Diadji Toure, communication's adviser for Senegal's prime minister.

Authorities set up five "crisis centers" in Dakar for relatives, where photos of those retrieved from the wreckage were displayed. Boy Scouts rushed bottled water and food to more than 3,000 people who waited in line throughout the day, officials said.

Ambulance teams tended to those who passed out from temperatures of about 33 degrees centigrade (92 degrees Fahrenheit).

Many victims' faces were too waterlogged to be recognizable. One bleary-eyed woman wailed "Papa, Papa!" as she was helped away from a display.

At the port in Dakar, young men crouched in the shade, pressing radios to their ears. Most family members were calm but sporadically bickered with army guards providing slow access to the photo lineup. Senegal's flag flew at half-staff in the last of three days of national mourning.

By midday Sunday, Gambian and Senegalese sailors, dive teams and other searchers had collected a total of 352 bodies from the ferry, the water and from along the coast, where some were washing up, said Aminata Dibba, permanent secretary for Gambia's presidency.

Six refrigerated ship containers with bodies inside were lined up in the capital's port, while hundreds more disintegrating bodies were offshore waiting to be brought in.

Capt. Samba Fall of the Senegalese Navy said many children were on board because they were returning from summer vacation from the southern Casamance region, known for powdery beaches. He declined to say how many children were on board or believed missing. *AP*

Greece braces for no-smoking regulations

ATHENS—Greece, Europe's heaviest smoking nation, starts to kick the habit on Tuesday when European Union no-smoking regulations come into effect.

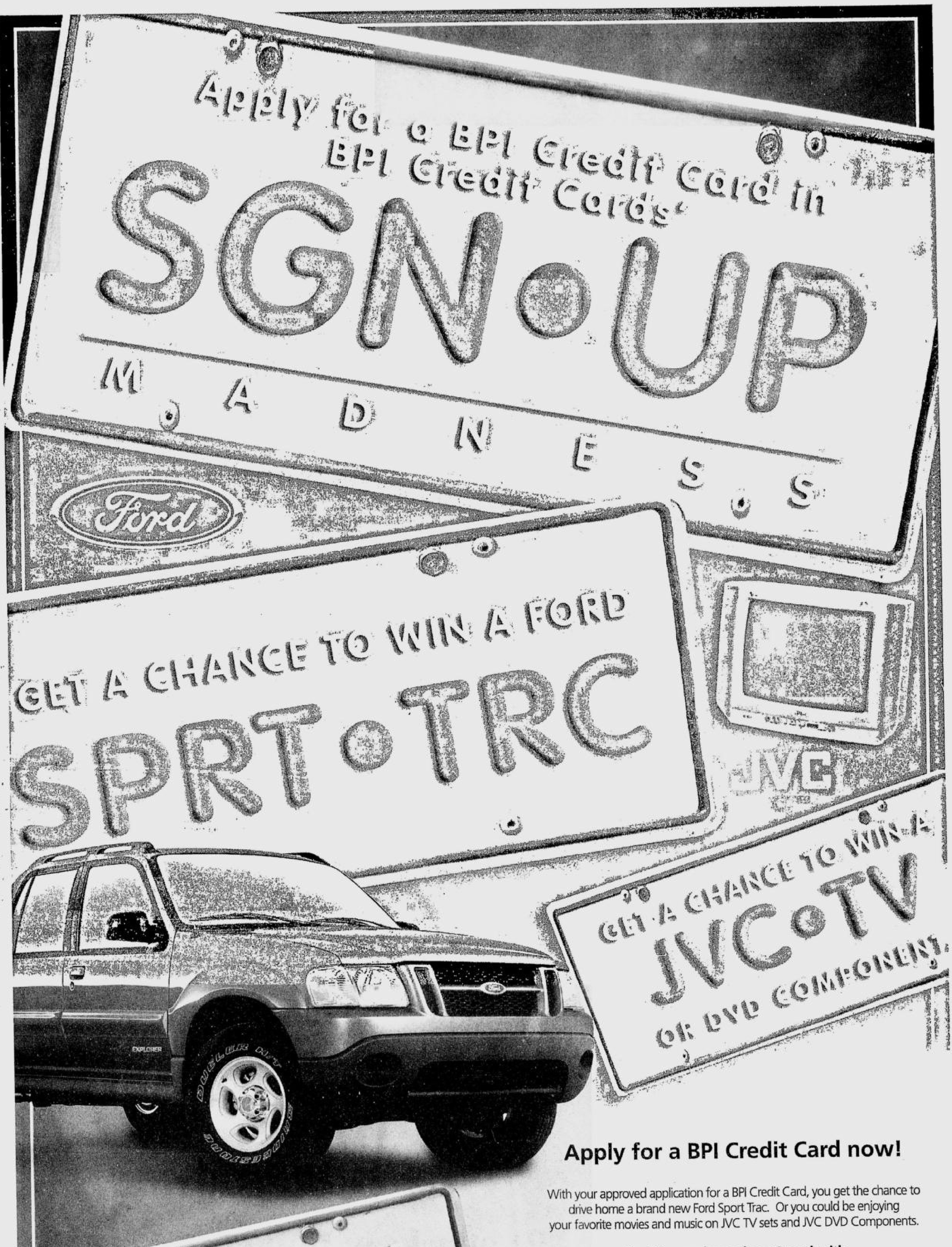
On Monday, workers were putting up no-smoking signs in hospitals, train stations and ministries in the first step towards putting all public spaces off-limits for smokers, allowing them to only puff away at designated smoking areas.

Some 45 percent of all Greeks are smokers, the health ministry has said, putting it well ahead of France which is second in the 15-nation EU with 38 percent.

Although no-smoking signs had already featured in most hospitals, public transport and taxis, many Greeks ignore them and unlike many other European countries, there are few smoke-free areas in restaurants and cafes. *Reuters*

ANIMAL FASHION SHOW

BEARS rehearse for an animal fashion show at a zoo in Nanjing, in China's eastern Jiangsu province. The fashion show, which also features monkeys and dogs, will be held at the zoo during the weeklong National Day holiday, which begins Oct. 1. AP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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
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Princess Caroline lobbies for toxic victims

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Princess Caroline of Monaco took the cudgels for Filipino toxic waste victims and residents of communities outside former United States military bases in the Philippines, according to a group helping toxic waste victims.

Princess Caroline, in a letter to US President George W. Bush, urged the latter to start the "prompt instigation of procedures to remedy the dangerous condition in which they (Filipino toxic waste victims) are forced to live."

The Princess is the president of the Association Mondiale des Amis de l'Enfance (Amade or World Association of Children's Friends) founded by her late mother Princess Grace.

She lamented the "tragic failure" of the American military to rid the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and Subic Naval Base in Zambales of hazardous waste before it left in 1991.

PRINCESS CAROLINE

Philippine senators, voting 12-11 to reject a new bases treaty in 1991, ordered Clark and Subic closed, as well as five support facilities in various parts of Luzon.

The military bases in the Philippines were used by the US for almost a century. Clark and Subic, the biggest outside of the US mainland, were used for the US wars in Korea, Vietnam and Iraq.

Princess Caroline sent the letter to Bush on Aug. 2. A copy of the letter was faxed to the Alliance for Bases Clean-Up International (ABCI) and the Amade Philippine chapter on Sept. 16, the 11th anniversary of the bases treaty rejection.

She also encouraged Bush to "expedite the necessary counter-measures to redress this critical and life-threatening situation."

Since the bases' closure and pullout of US troops from the country, the ABCI and Amade Philippine chapter have been campaigning for the cleanup.

Almost 200 children and adults who had lived or worked in the former bases had died of various ailments, many through various types of cancer.

Two government-sponsored studies, privately-funded examination of the soil and water sources, and a report by the General Accounting Office, the investigating arm of the US Congress, have confirmed the presence of hazardous chemicals and the pollution of soil, water and air in the former US military bases.

Princess Caroline asked Bush to "provide much needed humanitarian aid and compensation to the victims and their families."

The Amade Philippines and ABCI raised the same concerns to the Princess in a letter in April.

The two groups, through lawyer Eric Mallonga, Amade Philippines president and ABCI honorary board member, presented to Princess Caroline a compilation of photographs of disabled and sick residents, mostly of children, and various documents and studies confirming the existence of toxic wastes in the former bases.

Files on "child toxic waste warrior" Crizel Valencia and the campaign for a toxic waste-free environment that she waged months before her death in 2000, formed part of the briefing materials given to the Princess.

In the letter released by the two groups to reporters on Tuesday, Princess Caroline told Bush that "hundreds of thousands of children will die within the next decade as a result of this exposure."

She reminded Bush that retired US Admiral Eugene Carroll had testified in an international forum that his command, the USS Midway, dumped the ship's waste at Subic Bay and land within the former naval base.

She said she was aware that US Secretary of State Colin Powell had "admitted moral responsibility for his alarming state of affairs."

In a statement, Mallonga lamented the double-standard policy of the US.

The US, he said, has sites intended for radioactive, chemical and nuclear wastes. These, he noted, are known as "National Sacrifices Zones."

"The US has sacrificed its territorial lands. But here in the Philippines, the US has sacrificed not just our lands but our people and our children," Mallonga said.

"They have sacrificed the future of our children with their own selfish national interests as the paramount consideration and not the interests of our children."

Mallonga said Princess Caroline was considering an official state visit to the Philippines, possibly next year, "to visit, listen to and inspire the victims."

2 Hagedorn supporters stabbed, 5 arrested in wake of recall polls

By Dominique Monera-Tabora
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Two supporters of former mayor Edward Hagedorn were stabbed while five men with two hand grenades were arrested at around 10:15 p.m. on Saturday, near the city hall by members of the Philippine Marines.

The five men with deadly weapons—a .38-caliber revolver, two *bolos* and other deadly paraphernalia—were identified as Joel Tarabangao, Jose Del Rosario, Marlon Alcedo, Rolly Obili and Elmer Gamaso.

All were reportedly supporters of Hagedorn and assigned to watch ballot boxes in the city hall. The Hagedorn camp, however, claimed the evidence were planted.

Hacked

Due to the Supreme Court's issuance of a temporary restraining order that prevents the Commission on Elections from proclaiming the winner in the recently held recall election, the three mayoralty candidates posted their respective representatives to guard the ballot boxes inside the city hall.

In Barangay San Jose, Lodem Sumayang Jr., 27, a supporter of Hagedorn, was hacked by one Arnold Peña with the assistance of his three sons who were allegedly identified as supporters of Socrates.

San Jose barangay captain Jess Herrera said the quarrel between the victim and Peña started during the campaign for the recall election.

In Barangay Bancao-bancao, another Hagedorn supporter was allegedly stabbed by a supporter of Socrates.

Paralyzed

Last Sept. 26, transactions in the city hall were paralyzed after all entry and exit points were barricaded with heavy equipment by the Socrates camp, allegedly to prevent supporters of Hagedorn from going to the city hall.

Reports that spread in the city said Hagedorn's supporters planned to storm the city hall that day.

The barricade was removed the following day after the incident was criticized over local radio stations.

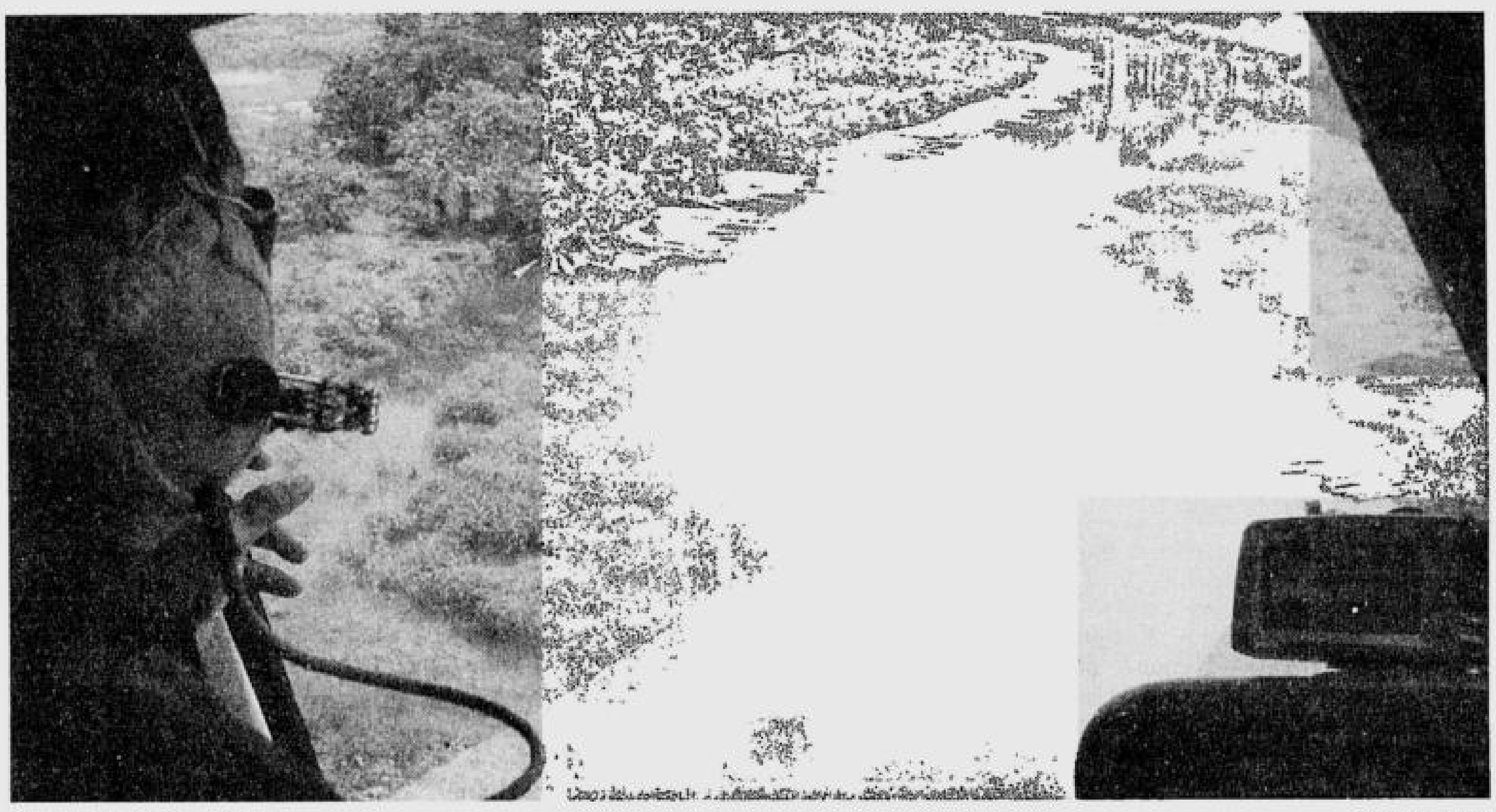
Hagedorn was leading by some 3,000 votes over Socrates in the canvassing of election results.

Moral victory

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER by the city mayor's office, Socrates claimed moral victory, saying "the result of the election does not reflect the true sentiment of the people of Puerto Princesa since it is tainted with irregularities."

However, he stressed that if the SC decides to lift the TRO to pave the way for the proclamation of the candidate with the most number of votes, he will abide by the decision and will turn over the city government to his successor.

Both Socrates and Hagedorn are calling for sobriety among their supporters.



VAL HANDUMON

ILLEGAL LOGGING
ENVIRONMJENT officials headed by Secretary Heherson Alvarez make an aerial inspection of illegal logs along the Umiray river at the triboundary of Bulacan, Aurora and Quezon provinces. Illegal loggers use the river to bring down their logs from the mountains.

Ecleo hospitalized after learning of his transfer to jail's isolation ward

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Barely two days after he was caught with a woman in his isolation cell, controversial cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. was rushed to the hospital Sunday night for a hypertension attack.

Ecleo complained of chills, chest pains and trouble in breathing just minutes before city jail officials decided to transfer him to another detention cell.

Ecleo complained of respiratory problems at around 8 p.m. Sunday night prompting city jail warden Supt. Lita Quilaton to rush him to the Cebu City Medical Center.

He was then brought to the hospital's Intensive Care Unit but an hour later attending physician Dr. Noel Mondejar said his blood pressure has returned to normal at 130/90. It rose to 160/80 before he was brought to the hospital.

Five members of the Regional Mobile Group and some jail guards were stationed outside the ICU for security purposes.

Ecleo, the "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), reportedly got nervous after Quilaton informed him at about 3 p.m. Sunday that he would be transferred to isolation 3, an unused water tank fitted with iron bars and located in the interior portion of the city jail. Ecleo was to share the new cell with several other inmates.

The transfer came after Maximo Altubar, Central Visayas director of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, ordered the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center officials to detain Ecleo with other inmates to discourage speculations that they accorded the cult leader special treatment.

Last Friday, Ecleo was discovered keeping a woman in his detention cell even if it was not a visiting day. The discovery had placed Quilaton and other city jail officials in hot water.

Police alerted on more NPA attacks in Iloilo province

ILOILO CITY—Police here have been alerted for more attacks by the New People's Army following daring rebel offensives in Davao and Quezon.

This developed as a rebel spokesperson announced that more attacks would be launched by the NPA.

Senior Supt. Juan Mabugat, provincial police director said security measures have been tightened especially in police outposts in the hinterland barangays and those located near provincial boundaries.

"Even before the attack, we have a standing order to increase alertness and the intensification of intelligence-gathering operations," said Mabugat in a telephone interview.

Mabugat said they were not discounting the possibility that the rebels would launch similar raids in Iloilo although there has been no reported rebel offensive in the province in recent months.

"Only the CPP-NPA knows when and where they would attack so we are not taking any chances," said Mabugat.

While rebel activities in the province have been confined to recruitment of members, the police have increased its monitoring in several areas including San Joaquin, Miag-ao, Igbaras, Tubungan, Leon, Alimodian, Janiuay, Calinog, San Rafael and Lemery, he said.

The NPA last week launched two raids in Maco, Compostela Valley and in Lopez, Quezon killing two persons including the police chief of Lopez and seizing tens of high-powered firearms and ammunition.

In an e-mailed statement released Sept. 29 by the Information Bureau of the Communist Party of the Philippines, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the raids "illustrate that the revolutionary armed struggle is advancing and gaining strength." He said the seized weapons will be used "to arm the increasing number of new recruits of the NPA."

He said the rebels will "intensify the armed struggle by carrying out more and more armed tactical offensives."

Rosal also called "utterly stupid" the defense and other government officials who called the raids as "terrorist acts."

"Carrying out armed actions against the AFP and PNP do not constitute terrorism. In the course of the armed conflict, active elements of the armed forces of either party are considered legitimate targets, even as the rights of those who have become incapable of fighting or who have surrendered are safeguarded," Rosal said.

He said the PNP are legitimate military targets because of its active role in counter-insurgency.

Zambales

On Thursday, suspected NPA rebels raided the compound of two construction firms in Botolan, Zambales and burned at least six construction equipment, a jeep and a crusher plant, belated police reports said.

No one was reported killed in the attacks but spouses Martin and Lapaz Tabunday, caretakers of the plant of Roma Construction Co., were hurt after the suspects tied them into a tree.

The Roma Construction Co. is owned by the family of Botolan Mayor Rogelio Yap.

Police said NPA rebels, led by one Ka Rudy, simultaneously attacked the Roma Compound and another firm owned by contractor Bing Maniquiz in Barangay San Juan here. The suspects poured gasoline on the construction equipment and burned them.

Burned were Roma's two Komatsu bulldozers, a Komatsu backhoe, a Caterpillar bulldozer and a Wrangler jeep. Also burned were Maniquiz's Komatsu bulldozer and Hitachi backhoe.

Martin Tabunday said the suspects fled to the eastern part of the town.

Zaldy Yap, brother of Mayor Yap and a co-owner of Roma, said NPA rebels in the town had been demanding revolutionary taxes from the firm.

In Angat, Bulacan, suspected NPA rebels burned several equipment and machines in a quarry site at Barangay Laog on Wednesday night.

Police said the rebels poured gasoline on three backhoes, four cranes and a power generator when they attacked the quarry site. No one was hurt in the attack, police said.

Supt. Fernando Villanueva, chief of the provincial police's first mobile group, said the rebels destroyed at least P3 million worth of equipment.

The NPA's Komite ng Larangananang Gerilya mula sa Silangang Bulacan claimed responsibility for the attack.

Leaflets left by the rebels in a village near the quarry site identified a provincial official and a top official in this town as the alleged owners of the equipment and accused them of illegally quarrying in the area.

The rebels said they destroyed the machines after residents complained of erosion in Angat's mountainous areas due to rampant quarrying.

Southern Luzon

In Camp Nakar, Lucena City, Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Southern Luzon Unified Command chief warned that the NPA rebels will not go scot-free for their attack on the Lopez police station.

"They will be pursued relentlessly wherever they go until all of them are arrested and brought to the court of justice," Kyamko said on Saturday.

Over 400 violent incidents have been initiated by the NPA in Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions since 1999, he said. "Murder of innocent civilians, which reached 225, topped the list of violent incidents undertaken by the rebels in both regions," Kyamko said.

The NPA committed 159 acts of murder in Bicol and 66 liquidations in Southern Tagalog, he revealed.

"From January of this year up to the present, the rebels have already made 45 liquidations, 14 of which were committed in Southern Tagalog and 31 in Bicol," the general said.

Kyamko also cited several incidents in Southern Luzon since 1999, which he said fits the terrorist tag on the communist rebels. These included 27 cases of ambush, 26 incidents of kidnapping, 9 arsons, 30 cases of harassment, 11 incidents of robbery-holdup, 31 cases of disarming and confiscation, and 9 incidents of raids. *Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau; Cesar Villa and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

RP coaxed to drop ancestral land law—NCIP

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Some government officials have been persuading Malacañang to drop the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra), amid growing efforts in the United Nations to "neutralize" a draft declaration that asserts "the right of indigenous peoples (IPs) to self-determination," government sources said.

Lawyer Evelyn Dunuan, chair of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), told the INQUIRER that the UN had asked the Philippine government to decide whether it would reaffirm or repudiate the UN Draft Declaration on Indigenous Peoples.

Other government sources said lobbyists within the UN have asked the Philippine government to reconsider the implementation of Ipra.

Dunuan said an opinion issued recently by the Office of the Solicitor General appeared to favor Ipra's dissolution.

These revelations have alarmed the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and representatives of various IPs groups during the 25th Indigenous Peoples Sunday celebration here on Sept. 29.

Bontoc-Lagawe Bishop Francisco Claver, ECIP chair, said he was shocked by Dunuan's revelations during a press conference about an attempt to water-down the UN Draft Declaration on Indigenous Peoples once a UN body concerned with IP affairs convenes this month.

According to a Subanon, who represented his tribe in three UN assembly sessions that discussed the draft declaration, "many big business interests from Canada and United States had been fighting for the document's withdrawal since last year."

Dunuan said the UN asked the NCIP, the departments of justice, environment and natural resources, and the OSG for their insights to formulate a formal Philippine stand regarding the draft IP declaration.

She said the OSG opinion was "disappointing" because it affirmed that the draft declaration's provision for "self-determination" was the reason many Asian countries had "refused" to support the document.

During the Estrada administration, the OSG supported the Supreme Court petition filed by retired Justice Isagani Cruz, who questioned the Ipra's constitutionality. The petition lost on a technicality after the Supreme Court justices failed to break a tie last year.

A source from "Task Force 63," a special coordination unit supervised by President Macapagal-Arroyo tasked to address ancestral land conflicts, said it took a directive from Ms Macapagal for the OSG to reverse its opinion on Ipra.

"Let's hope it doesn't take another directive (to change the OSG's mind about the draft declaration)," the source said.

Representatives of the Subanon, B'laan, Aeta, Mandaya and Manobo tribes, dressed in their colorful headdresses and beaded jackets, joined the Ibalois and Kankanaeys here for a Mass at the Baguio Cathedral on Sunday.

Claver, who officiated at the Mass, said globalization now threatened indigenous Filipinos and the one "safety net" left open to them is the Ipra.

"Indigenous Filipinos are most vulnerable to at least one negative aspect of globalization: Its voracious, incessant need for raw materials to keep its industrial and consumerist well-being going," he said in his homily.

"For most nations like ours, the ever present temptation is to use such natural resources as we have to the utmost—we have nothing else—to make us competitive in the world economy," Claver said.

"(But) our indigenous Filipinos live in areas where much of our natural resources are found. In the government's and private business' desire to exploit these resources, the danger has always been that the rights of IPs over their ancestral lands are sacrificed in the name of economic progress."

INDIGENOUS peoples groups join the Catholic bishops during the celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day in Baguio City.

EV ESPIRITU

Housing firm's bias vs Muslims hit

By Christine Godinez Ortega and Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ILIGAN CITY—Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla decried the reported discriminatory policy against Muslims by a subdivision in Cagayan de Oro City owned by the family of Sen. Manuel Villar.

The Cagayan de Oro city council, announced it would start an investigation on Frontierra Subdivision.

Capalla, co-convenor of the Bishops-Ulama Forum (BUF), said.

In a Sept. 22 statement, Capalla said he was saddened when he read that Frontierra, managed by Crown Asia, rejected the application of Janet Sumalpong Kamlian because her husband is a Muslim.

The prelate, who has been in the forefront of efforts to unite Muslims and Christians in Mindanao, said Frontierra's discriminatory action was not only a "blatant disrespect against two professionals," but was also "an unjust breach of a valid contract, an unfair indictment of all Muslims, and a shameful ignorance of the religion of Islam."

The Kamlians, through Janet, had paid the required non-refundable downpayment of P10,000 (not P5,000 as reported) for a 189-square meter lot that originally cost P795,000.

But upon submission of Janet's application form, Communities Cagayan Inc., Crown Asia's subsidiary in Cagayan de Oro City, told her through its realty agent, Gemma Patalinghug, that it had been rejected because she is married to a Muslim.

Capalla said the incident goes against "peace efforts and of all (peace) advocates in Mindanao."

Even as the misconduct and crimes of Christians and Muslims are to be deplored, he said "common sense mandates us not to make sweeping generalizations of individual followers of Islam and Christianity."

Capalla has appealed to the Villar-owned subdivision to "re-admit the Kamlian family."

The probe by the Cagayan de Oro City council was triggered by an INQUIRER story on the "discrimination."

"We cannot allow such discrimination to proliferate in our city and so far it is the first time that I heard of such policy existing in subdivisions. There were ample number of subdivisions here where our Muslim brothers are residing. That is truly unfair to them," Councilor Reynaldo Advincula lamented.

Councilor Edgardo Cabanlas, chair of the landed estates committee, said the policy should be stopped if it really existed.

Envoy hints of more EU support for RP

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The ambassador of the European Commission to the country on Monday expressed willingness to pursue development programs in poor provinces, citing the success of its projects here.

"You have created a success here, and we in the European Commission always want to be a part of something that has become a success," Jan De Kok, head of the EC delegation, said.

"It is something that we have started together, so I'm sure you would see me back here sometime," he added.

De Kok was in the province Monday to start a three-day visit to European Union-assisted projects under its Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Program (Cascade).

Jointly funded by the Philippine government and the EU, Cascade is a seven-year program that provides assistance to indigenous communities in upland barangays of 19 towns in Nueva Vizcaya, Benguet and Nueva Ecija.

Achievements

De Kok lauded Cascade's achievements in the last two years, as he mentioned the EU's "mid-term review mission, which affirmed that the program was on track to achieve its objective of sustainability in the upland areas."

He led other officials during Monday's turnover ceremonies of some P9 million worth of equipment and projects to various local governments and people's organizations here.

"It doesn't matter how much money you are able to put in. It only matters if the people who are experiencing the poverty, are willing to take the opportunity to (improve) their own lives," he said.

"That is exactly what we are in the EU are standing for—self-reliance," he added.

With Cascade to end in 2004, Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani asked De Kok to relay to the EU their appeal for a possible extension of the program.

"I'm not going to make any promises, but let me assure that I myself and the European Commission always want to be a part of something that is a success," De Kok said. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Commuters ask Gloria to rehabilitate 'alligator cracks' in Iloilo-Antique road

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Students at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas have written President Macapagal-Arroyo about a road, not the controversial the one named after her father, but the Iloilo-Antique Road, which was described as having "alligator cracks."

So bad is the state of Iloilo-Antique Road that 33 students of Community Development and Philippines Social Realities (CD 101) recently wrote Ms Macapagal for immediate rehabilitation of the road and solicit signatures to pressure public works officials to repair it.

The students wrote: "We hold the State accountable and seek your immediate action to uphold our rights to health, safety and citizens of the Republic of the Philippines."

The 82-kilometer national highway passes through the towns of Oton, Tigbauan, Guimbal, Miagao and San Joaquin, and up to Iloilo's boundary with Antique.

Some 2,000 residents from the southern towns have signed the petition that has gained the support of almost a thousand students at the UP Visayas in Miagao. The mayors of Oton, Tigbauan, Miagao and San Joaquin have also endorsed the students' petition.

Constructed in 1982 by Korean firm Hanil Construction, the road is now pockmarked by potholes of all shapes and sizes, rendering travel difficult, rain or shine.

The first engineering district of the Department of Public Works and Highways admitted the sordid state of the asphalt road. In a letter to DPWH regional director Wilfredo Agustino, Sept. 5, assistant district engineer Mike Gutierrez Jr. said the road has plenty of defects such as "longitudinal and transversal alligator cracks, rutting, raveling and potholes."

Gutierrez said the life of the asphalt road is only 10 years and the Iloilo-Antique Road is already 19 years old. He said his office tried to remedy the situation by patching the potholes with premix asphalt but some portions are already beyond repair.

The students who visited the DPWH office were told that the road rehabilitation starts next year, with P728 million fund from the Asian Development Bank. Meanwhile the road would have pothole patching.

The students said medical opinions they gathered showed that the defective road is both a health and economic hazard to travelers. The dusty road could worsen asthma and bring about other respiratory ailments. Pregnant women traversing the road could also risk abortion during the early months of pregnancy, as well as premature labor and miscarriages in the last months of pregnancy.

Dr. Anthony Montalban of the Miagao health office, said the bad road is partly blamed for the accidents in the town. Police records showed that 129 accidents occurred during the period, injuring 117 people and killing three. At least 40 percent happened along the Iloilo-Antique highway, often during weekdays, and usually involved small vehicles such as tricycles.

The police office said bad drivers caused 90 to 97 percent of the accidents and the rest because of the faulty road. But Montalban said accidents occurred because drivers tried to avoid potholes and might not notice other speeding vehicles.

The road also lengthens the travel time of traders and fish agents, leading to spoilage. The deplorable road also takes a toll on tourism, like day tours to the centuries old Miagao Church.

Solomonic solution needed for custody of Baguio baby

By Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Two mothers are claiming custody over a week-old baby girl, who was recovered Saturday after being "stolen" from the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center on Monday.

Police recovered the baby from Lilibeth Campos, 26, when she took the baby to the Baguio Filipino-Chinese Hospital here for treatment Saturday afternoon.

Senior Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, city police director, said a hospital staff member felt suspicious when she failed to find the birth records of Campos' supposed daughter.

Campos, Bumanglag said, had claimed that she delivered the baby in the Baguio Filipino-Chinese Hospital on Sept. 22.

The staff member reported the presence of the woman in their hospital.

The baby girl was reported missing from the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center on Monday after a woman who pretended to be a doctor took the baby.

Dominga Wadwadan, 29, the baby's mother, said she mistook the woman for a doctor, "because she had a stethoscope hanging around her neck."

The baby girl, who was born on Sept. 22, was reportedly taken by the suspect from her mother's bedside between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. on Sept. 2[illegible]

Bumanglag said one of their witnesses said Campos resembles the police artist's sketch of the suspect.

He said Campos and her husband Johnny insisted that the baby is their daughter.

ROUNDUP

Frenchman escapes

DAVAO CITY—The city police have been hot on the trail of a French national who escaped from custody after having been arrested inside the Davao City International Airport here for possession of marijuana. David Kenny Kerespars, 29, a native of Paris, France, was charged on Wednesday for violation of the Comprehensive Drug Act of 2002, but he had yet to be located. Kerespars jumped off a police car while being brought to the city police office along San Pedro St. on Sept. 16. Efforts to recapture him failed after he ran towards a busy section of the city.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Solve killings, cops urged

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Bishop Valentin Lorejo of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente urged the police here to solve the spate of killings attributed to anti-crime vigilante groups to dispel rumors that lawmen themselves are involved in the execution of suspected criminals. "Can they not do something to arrest these scot-free killers? Perhaps, we could not blame the people from suspecting that these perpetrators are agents of the government that is why they could not arrest them?" Lorejo, also secretary general of Karapatan, said. He said that the summary execution of criminals was part of the government's vision to attain a strong republic. "We have the jails here so that those who are found guilty of their crimes have a place where they could change. The situation right now does not stand for a strong republic but it is a weak one," Lorejo said of the killings. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NBI raids Caltex station

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—National Bureau of Investigation agents here on Thursday raided a Caltex refill station that was said to have been illegally refilling liquefied petroleum gas cylinders of other companies. They arrested Teresito Nulud, president of Northways Co., which operates the Caltex Northways refilling station in Barangay Magsaysay here; Leovino Barayuga, plant manager; and Carol Sierra, company secretary. Seized from the plant were a 50-kg Shellane LPG cylinder and 48 11-kg Shellane tanks, 17 of which have already been filled up. Also seized were sacks of assorted plastic caps reportedly being used as LPG security seals.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NPA kid held

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Army soldiers on Tuesday took custody of a 14-year-old member of the New People's Army in Zambales. Reports said the boy, a Grade 5 pupil in Palauig, Zambales, was turned over by his parents to Army soldiers after the boy fired his M-14 Armalite rifle in their village. The boy admitted that he was a regular member of the NPA in the province. He said an NPA official, whom he identified only as Ka Sherly, ordered him to fire his gun to attract the attention of soldiers holding a community meeting in Barangay Salaza. Ka Sherly reportedly told the boy that they were planning to ambush the soldiers.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Protest at UPLB

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Various sectors held a rally here on Thursday to protest the reappointment of University of the Philippines at Los Baños Chancellor Wilfredo David as the UP Board of Regents held its meeting in Baguio City. The protesters said the BOR disregarded the petitions and bases of the various sectors calling for the non-reappointment of David. More than 1,000 signatures of students and faculty members were submitted last Tuesday to student regent JPaul Manzanilla, who was expected to present the protesters manifesto of unity calling for the reevaluation of the BOR's decision over David's appointment at the BOR meeting. *Clarence Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Classes under tent

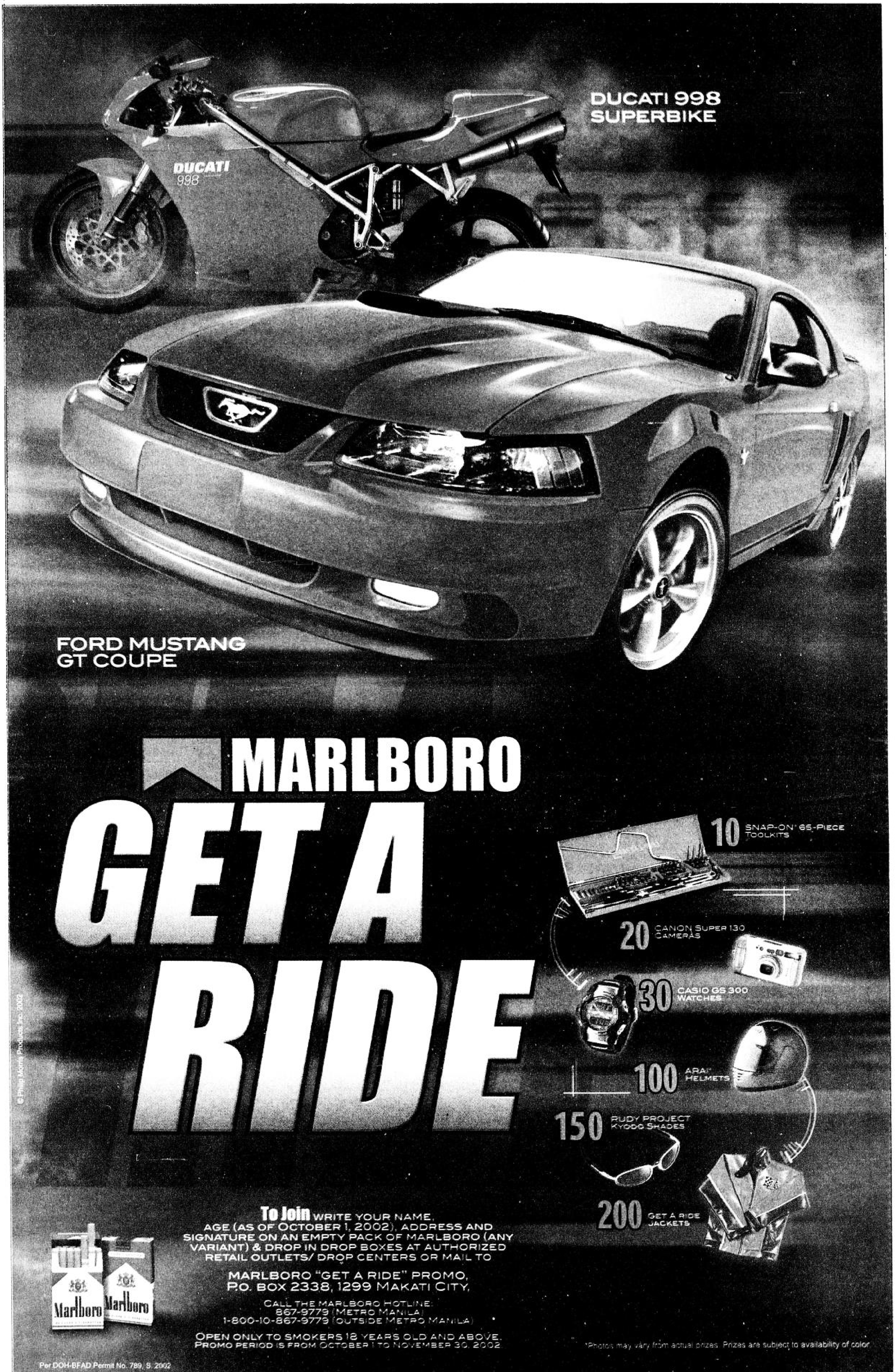
CEBU CITY—Some 530 pupils of the Tabok II Elementary School in Mandaue City were forced to hold classes under a huge tent after a fire of still unknown origin gutted their 13-classroom two-story building at 5:55 p.m. last Monday. School records of the pupils currently enrolled and of past graduates were among those lost in the fire. Tabok barangay captain Emeliano Rosal said he would use the barangay's calamity funds to buy bamboo and coconut lumber to set up temporary classrooms on a privately owned lot adjacent to the school.

Lino Parone, PDI Visayas Bureau

New Tacloban cop chief

TACLOBAN CITY—Supt. Arnulfo Cruz is back at the helm of the Tacloban City Police Office. Cruz replaced Supt. Brigido Unay who was re-appointed to his old post as chief of the Provincial Anti-Narcotics Unit. The appointments of Cruz and Unay to their respective positions were based on Special Order No.290 dated Sept. 23 signed by Senior Supt. Teodorido Lapuz IV, Leyte police director. Cruz was acting city police director in 1997. Prior to his new appointment, he was operations officer of Cebu Provincial Police Office.

Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau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House leaders to await final SC ruling on Jimenez bail

From page A1

At his own press conference, Perez appeared unperturbed by the threat of Jimenez's sympathizers.

Asked to comment on Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen's threat to have him cited in contempt, Perez said: "Good luck."

"If they'll have me arrested, then (so be it). *Mauuna pa ako kay* MJ (I'll even precede Jimenez in jail)," he added.

Perez reminded the congressmen supportive of Jimenez that laws were designed to be followed to the letter.

"We have laws to uphold," he said. "We have to remember also that the Supreme Court decision forms part of the laws of the land. We must respect the laws despite our ranking positions in government. We must respect the decision of the high court."

Perez also said that if the congressmen in question "want another way of treating a person subjected to an extradition case," they should amend the extradition law. "But for as long as the law stands, we have no choice but to apply the same and to honor the decision of the Supreme Court," he said.

He noted, however, that amending the extradition law would need the concurrence of the US government because it was enacted through a treaty.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also called on lawmakers planning on blocking Jimenez's arrest to "uphold the rule of law."

"And the law should apply uniformly to everyone regardless of his station in life," Bunye said.

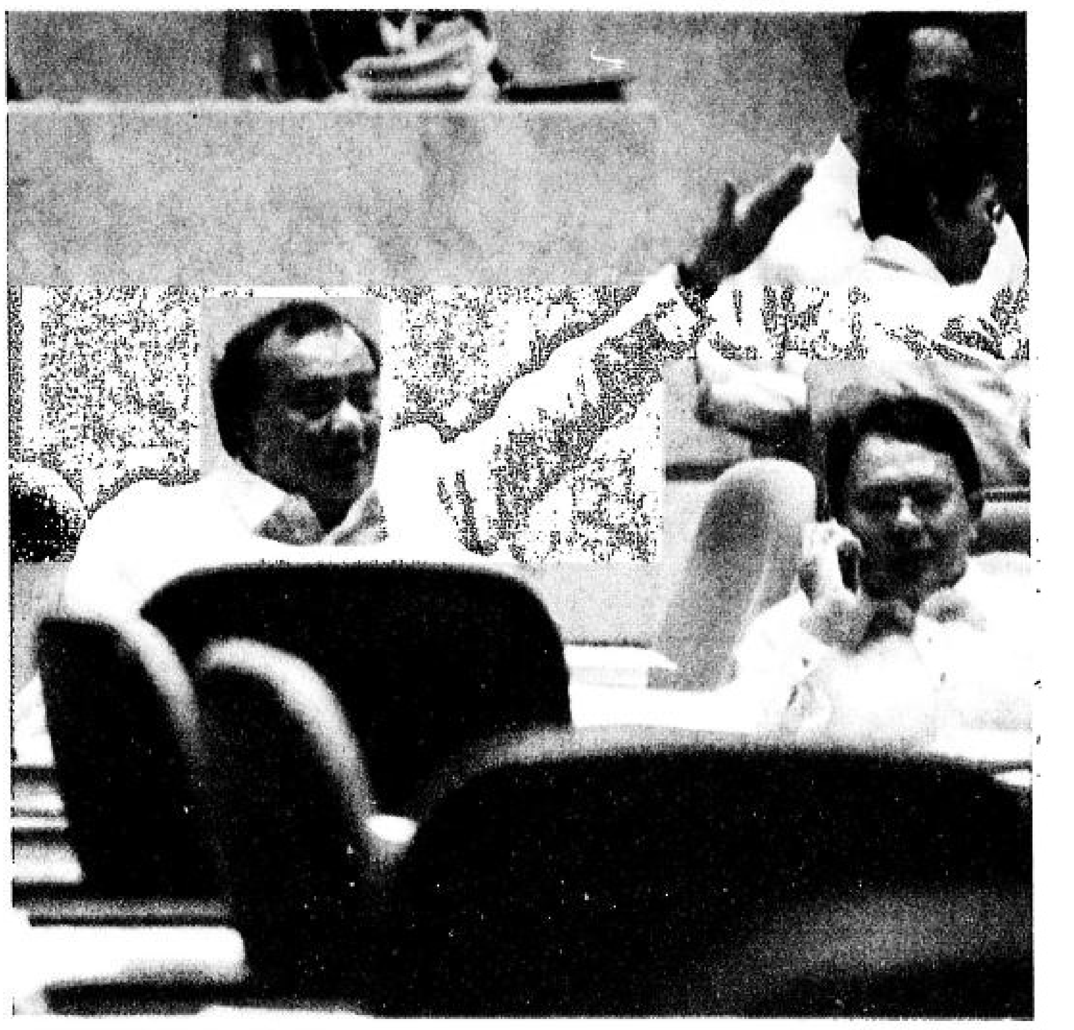
Ways and means

Responding to a question, Gonzalez said the House leadership also wanted Jimenez to "find ways and means to solve his problem in the United States."

"But we should focus first on the issue before us, which is the urgent one—the matter of whether he can be arrested or not pending the final disposition of the extradition case before the regional trial court," Gonzalez said.

He said Dilangalen's threat that the House would arrest those who would seek to arrest Jimenez was "not the House position."

He said that the position of the chamber was "precisely to wait for the decision of the Supreme Court on the motion for reconsideration," and that it would be speculative to say whether the House would block Jimenez's arrest.



BELEAGUERED Rep. Mark Jimenez attends the regular session of the House of Representatives, which resumed Monday. The session was spent on speeches supportive of him. JOAN BONDOC

"We are monitoring the developments very closely, the leadership together with the minority, but we don't expect that at this point," he said. "I believe the Supreme Court will not be that precipitate to order the lower court to issue a warrant of arrest while there is a motion for reconsideration."

Gonzalez said that if the bail cancelation was finalized, "I doubt if we can prevent (Jimenez's arrest), but that does not mean the House cannot resort to certain measures short of creating a constitutional crisis."

He said it was speculative of the high court to cancel Jimenez's bail on the ground that the congressman was a flight risk.

He also said the two committees would review Presidential Decree No. 1069, or the extradition law, for the benefit of Filipinos facing extradition.

According to Gonzalez, the decree does not provide the right to bail in extradition cases. It was only when Jimenez's case came up that congressmen learned there were many Filipinos, including five women, languishing in jail while awaiting the resolution of their extradition cases, he said.

He added that there was no reason the amendment would not benefit Jimenez and others similarly situated.

Gonzalez also said he and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora would file a bill for this amendment.

Jaraula already did. House Bill No. 5254 states that "in the case of a resident citizen of the Philippines no warrant of arrest shall be issued before a final determination that such citizen is extraditable, except when he/she shall have failed to appear in person or through counsel...or when sought to be extradited on the basis of a final conviction of a court of the requesting state."

Lozada and Libanan and Lozada are to preside over the hearing of Jimenez's status at 9:30 a.m. today.

Libanan said Perez, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco and other officials would be asked what actions they had done to facilitate Jimenez's extradition.

Jimenez was seen conversing with groups of congressmen at the resumption of yesterday's session, which was spent on speeches supportive of him.

Lozada said that the House was not badly affected by the Jimenez case, and that the congressmen "keep working.

Personal appeal

Perez said he would personally appeal to House leaders to intervene should Jimenez's colleagues physically bar justice and Interpol-NBI agents from serving the arrest warrant on Jimenez.

"If he opts to hide (within the halls of) Congress, I will talk to the (other congressmen)," Perez said.

As for the basis of the threat of being cited in contempt, he said: "No comment. I guess they know something that I don't know."

Perez also reminded Jimenez's sympathizers that he would not order the NBI to arrest the congressman if the Manila trial court hearing the extradition case refused to issue the standing warrant.

"I have no control over the court. The decision really belongs to the court," he stressed.

Jimenez's supporters led by more than 31 barangay chairs of Manila's sixth district picketed the Department of Justice yesterday.

In a statement, the picketers said they brought two boxes of "special" moon cakes as "a birthday gift" to Perez and "to appeal to him to respect due process," and rice cakes "to remind him that he is a Filipino."

They sought an audience with Perez, who demurred.

Asked why they brought moon cakes, the picketers admitted that they took the cue from Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui, who had earlier sought the release of 122 Chinese fishermen caught poaching in Philippine waters.

Wang, who brought moon cakes when he visited Perez the other week, quarreled with the justice secretary over the conditions for the release of the fishermen. When the dispute was settled last Wednesday, Perez said: "I can now eat the moon cakes."

The picketers said that in contrast to the Chinese fishermen who violated environmental laws, Jimenez had not even been convicted of any crime.

"Jimenez has demonstrated sincerity and grassroots consultation, particularly in our depressed areas," they said. "His administration has been marked by prompt action on the problems of our district."

They also said Jimenez should not be arrested and subsequently extradited as his constituents wanted him to remain in office as their representative.

No sympathy

Unfortunately for Jimenez, senators are not as sympathetic to his plight as his colleagues in the House.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara expressed agreement with De Venecia's advice to Jimenez to seek a plea bargain in the United States.

"I certainly agree that every organ of government must comply with our international treaty, and that is why I think Speaker De Venecia took the correct stand in saying that Congressman Jimenez must do his own thing and deal with US authorities rather than involve the House in his extradition case," Angara said.

Angara also said he agreed with the Supreme Court decision, and said "bail is a matter of discretion."

"If the court says that you ought to post bail or you cannot post bail, that is judicial discretion," he added.

Sen. John Osmeña, also of the opposition, said: "I am not going to be his lawyer. I have no sympathy for him."

But Osmeña expressed reservations about how "a foreign country can coerce a citizen of the Philippines to do what (that country) wants."

"I am not taking the side of Jimenez, but there is the threat that a foreign country can use a treaty to coerce a senator or congressman," he said.

Osmeña noted that the RP-US extradition treaty left "pregnant" issues unresolved, particularly the situation in which a member of Congress could be involved.

Senate President Franklin Drilon stressed that "the rule of law" should be followed and that the tribunal's decision should be respected by the branches of government.

"Under our law, the Supreme Court is the final arbiter of what the law means," Drilon said.

Sen. Robert Barbers implored Jimenez to "submit and uphold the majesty of the law."

"Let justice prevail," said Barbers, who added that Jimenez still had recourse to legal remedies.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. firmly pointed out that Jimenez "committed a major offense in the US."

"Definitely, he cannot get our support (in the Senate)," Magsaysay said. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Rocky Nazareno*

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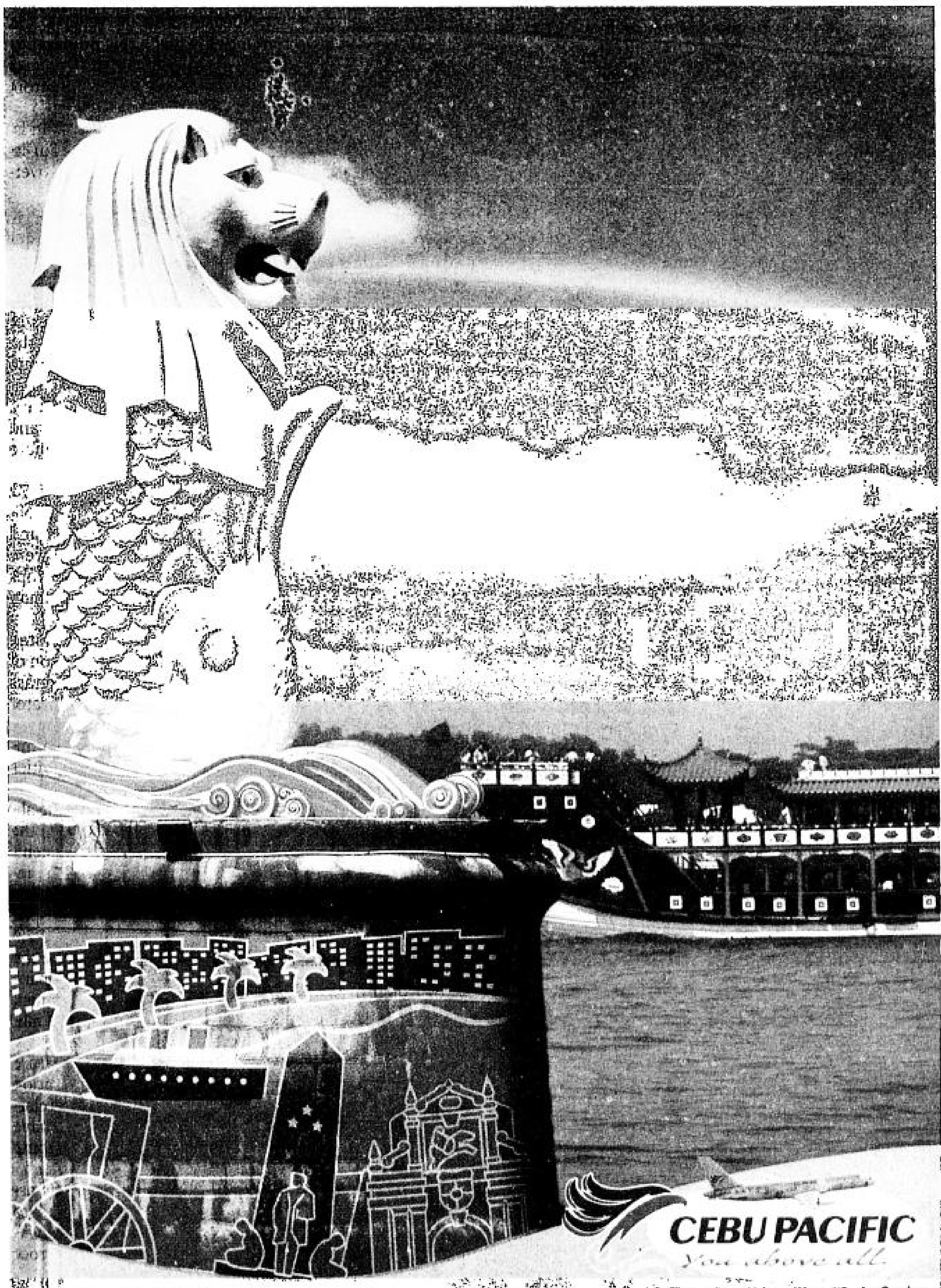

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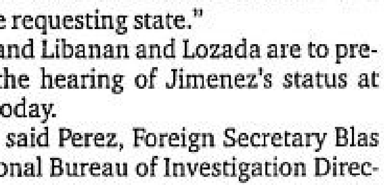

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15 groups endorse raps vs PEA officials

From page A1

struction of the boulevard, a 5.1-km asphalt road in the Manila Bay reclamation area. The road was meant to decongest traffic along Roxas Boulevard.

Araullo said "we find Tagud more credible" than other PEA officials, who are accusing him of extorting money from the contractor, Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction.

The respondents to the complaint to be filed by Tagud and the civil society groups will include PEA chair Ernest Villareal, general manager Benjamin Cariño and the project contractor Jesusito Legaspi.

The contact for the boulevard was awarded to JDLC in 1999. But the "price escalation" that resulted in the overprice was approved by the new PEA board appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to Tagud.

Tagud, himself a member of the PEA board, said only the 2.3-km portion built by JDLC was overpriced. The rest of the road was built by Shoemart Inc. through DM Consunji and the R1 Consortium, which will get parcels of land from the PEA as payment.

DEMOLITION JOB. Amid the controversy surrounding the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard project, authorities pursue the demolition of shanties seen as "eyesores" along the newly built highway.

ERIK ARAZAS

Lead counsel

Lawyer Leonard de Vera, who represents the legal advocacy group E-Just, said he would act as one of the lawyers for the complaint, but the "lead counsel" would come from the Public Interest Law Center.

De Vera said one of the merits of having more NGOs onboard would be this: "If for some reason something happened to Tagud, the NGOs will be there to pursue the case to its proper conclusion."

For the second time yesterday, Tagud was a no-show at the Office of the Ombudsman. He announced on Saturday that he would file a plunder complaint against fellow PEA officials and Legaspi on Monday. The filing was actually first scheduled for Sept. 27.

When reached by phone, Tagud apparently turned media-shy as he referred the INQUIRER to De Vera. Tagud mentioned "timing" as one of the reasons for the postponement.

Militant groups are against an investigation of the latest scandal to hit the PEA by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) as they fear a whitewash. They are seeking an independent probe. The PEA and the PAGC are under the Office of the President.

The Senate is conducting its own investigation of the road project.

60-day deadline

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered PAGC chair Dario Rama to finish the investigation of the alleged overpricing of the road named after her father in 60 days.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President asked Rama "to submit his recommendation not later than 60 working days."

"That's fast," a PAGC insider said of the deadline. The commission's internal rules provide for the resolution of cases 60 days after cases are submitted for decision, the PAGC insider said.

"This means that after all parties concerned have rested their respective cases, the PAGC has 60 days to resolve the case and forward its recommendations to Malacañang," he said.

The PEA controversy was referred to the PAGC last week after Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz, who was earlier ordered by Ms Macapagal to review the matter, inhibited himself from the case.

The opposition had asked Cruz to inhibit himself following the disclosure of documents showing that it was he who officially informed the PEA that the GSIS had been allowed to lend the agency P1 billion for the project.

The GSIS-PEA loan arrangement was approved by Ms Macapagal herself, according to a June 7 letter by Cruz to the two agencies.

Camacho's role

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has a lot of explaining to do with respect to the P1-billion loan, according to Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

She said Camacho endorsed the loan despite apparent violations of the law when the contract price was jacked up.

Oreta said the PAGC and the Congress should summon Camacho to explain his role in the questionable agreement.

The Estrada administration had issued a directive that all government projects worth P50 million and above should be reviewed by the Executive Secretary. This policy, however, was amended by Ms Macapagal when she issued a directive transferring to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) the task of reviewing projects worth at least P50 million.

Oreta said Camacho should also clarify a report about a supposed executive order transferring the function of reviewing the PEA loan, along with other project loans amounting to at least P50 million, from the Neda to the Department of Finance.

In recommending approval of the P1 billion PEA-GSIS loan, Camacho might have overlooked the deal's possible violations of procurement laws, according to Oreta. She was referring to the implementing rules and regulations of Presidential Decree 1594, which calls for a supplemental agreement and a possible re-bidding in transactions involving infrastructure projects whose amount exceeds 25 percent of the escalated original contract price.

Oreta cited reports that the increase in the original cost of the contract, which was P585 million, was done through a mere "change order," even though a supplemental agreement was recommended under the rules. The senator said Camacho should have determined if the increase in the cost of the project was in accordance with the law.

"The kindest thing we could say here is that, just like his plan for local government units to float bonds and borrow money from the Land Bank of the Philippines or Development Bank of the Philippines equivalent to the 20-percent Internal Revenue Allotment cut, Camacho appears not to have done his homework on the PEA-GSIS loan agreement," Oreta said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said his committee on public accountability would only need two days with "no grandstanding" to finish the Senate investigation of the road project.

Probe of GSIS

The Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises last night said it would start a formal inquiry into the use of billions of pesos in government-held pension funds, starting with the P1-billion loan extended by the GSIS to the PEA. Sen. Edgardo Angara said the inquiry would be led by Sen. John Osmeña, committee chair.

"This will be a comprehensive inquiry which will hopefully lead to reforms in the management of pension funds, which of late has been attended by reports of mismanagement, misuse and other activities beyond the mandate of the fund managers," Angara said.

Angara said there were two significant angles in the reported overprice of the PDMB. The first was the reported P600 million overprice, which makes it the costliest road in the history of Philippine construction, and the second, the GSIS approval of the P1-billion loan for the road project despite the fact that it has no income-generating component.

He said the PDMB did not fall within that category. The GSIS is only mandated to invest on income-generating projects, according to Angara.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the same PEA officials who faced a Senate inquiry before on the PEA-Amari deal were also the same officials who will answer queries on the PDMB deal. Drilon said it was just proper for all members of the PEA board to go on leave to prevent them from influencing their subordinates.

Because all the PEA directors are on indefinite leave of absence, the President has assigned Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong to serve as officer in charge of the PEA.

"Sim Datumanong has exhorted PEA employees to extend their full cooperation to the PAGC should they be asked to testify before the probe body," Bunye said.

Bunye said Malacañang was not inclined to adopt suggestions for the government to change the name of the road to its original name: the Central Boulevard Project.

Speaker Jose de Venecia has reportedly made this proposal in order to dissociate the name of Ms Macapagal's late father from the alleged scam.

"We'll just stick to the main issue," Bunye said. "The main issue is whether there was an overpricing or not."

A tale of death in a one-room shanty

From page A1

abandoned the family eight months ago.

Angeline, the eldest, is now married and living with her husband in Bataan. She took her brother Rolando, 19, with her to help out in the household.

Jerson, 17, and Jeremy, 13, have jobs of sorts as errand boys in the neighborhood, which was why they were away in those fateful hours.

Witnesses said Rosalinda and the three youngest children had not been eating regularly for the past several days.

They said this probably traumatized the mother who, they noted, had been known in the neighborhood to be suffering bouts of dementia in between lucid moments.

They recalled seeing Rosalinda traipsing on the shanty roofs at midday, or toying with her hair and hacking at it for no apparent reason.

Rosalinda is now detained at the Caloocan police station and Jemma is in the care of neighbors.

Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, chief of the station's intelligence and investigation division, identified Rosalinda as a housewife residing on Kanlaon Street in Caloocan and a native of Catbalogan, Samar.

P03 Leonilo Padulaga, officer in charge of the case, said Rosalinda would be charged with two counts of parricide.

Padulaga said that should it be established after a psychological examination that the mother was not in her right mind when she killed her children, she could be released and sent to a mental rehabilitation facility.

However, he said, a court order was required for this.

But if she were found to have been in full control of her faculties when she committed the crime, he added, she would be sentenced to life imprisonment or—the ultimate punishment—death.

Palace eyes BF as Gloria running mate in 2004

From page A1

in Metro Manila, and Metro Manila is the microcosm of the country," Rufino said in a phone interview.

"He's somebody to watch out (for) because he is now the dark horse in the race to become GMA's running mate," Rufino said. "He'll be a strong contender."

Since his appointment as MMDA chair, Fernando has launched a campaign to rid the streets and sidewalks of the metropolis of street vendors, earning the wrath of the vendors and militant groups.

Rufino noted that even people living in areas near Metro Manila had come to appreciate Fernando's performance. "They're wishing they have a guy like BF," he said.

He laughed off suggestions that Ms Macapagal just run as the vice presidential candidate of former Sen. Raul Roco. "*Ano siya, ugok?*" Rufino said. "I thought he was a smart guy."

Roco, who resigned as education secretary in August, declared on Thursday his intention to run for president at a meeting of the Philippine Constitution Association.

FERNANDO

RUFINO

ROCO

"Roco's actions are funny and we're simply amused," Rufino said. He said Roco, head of the Aksyon Demokratiko party, must now quit the ruling People Power Coalition.

"Roco should get out. *Tapos na ang plastikan*," the presidential adviser said.

Rufino said Malacañang's "tracking polls" also showed that Ms Macapagal was "way ahead of her supposed rivals" in the 2004 elections.

He did not identify the contenders, but he asserted that the Palace's monitoring system was comparable with, if not better than, that used by private polling firms.

Rufino, who is also the executive director of the ruling Lakas-NUCD, said Ms Macapagal's anointment as the party's standard-bearer was "already a foregone conclusion."

"FVR has already told the troops: GMA is the bet," Rufino said, referring to former President Fidel V. Ramos, the party's chair emeritus.

As the 2004 polls nears, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said he expected more mud to be thrown at the administration.

"By Philippine standards, (elections are) just around the corner ... so we expect this considering the very exuberant politics that we have here," Reyes said.

"And perhaps (it) is a sign that democracy and dissent is very, very active in the Philippines," he said. ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

El Niño here, finally…

From page A1

"We will start to feel the effects of the El Niño phenomenon, although it will be gradual," Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said yesterday.

A big portion of the country will experience below normal rainfall as the number of typhoons passing by the country tapers off, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

The last typhoon, code-named "Milenyo," came two months ago. Only three to four tropical cyclones or typhoons are expected to enter the country in the next three months.

Montemayor said that based on observations of the weather bureau, drought would start in Mindanao and later hit the eastern parts of the Visayas and in Cagayan, Quezon and the Bicol provinces in Luzon.

El Niño has already led to droughts in Australia, Indonesia, northeast Brazil and southern Africa while causing excessive rainfall in Peru, Ecuador, and the central Pacific.

The weather phenomenon develops every few years and involves warming of the Pacific Ocean by 1 to 2 degrees Celsius, which typically extends from the Peruvian coast to the International Date Line, spanning about 100 degrees longitude, or one quarter of the earth's surface.

Signs of El Niño began manifesting in June when sea surface temperature throughout the equatorial Pacific rose.

According to the US-based National Science Foundation, the change in sea temperature alters tropical weather patterns and influences short-term climate over the globe through changes in atmospheric circulation.

The environmental watchdog Greenpeace said El Niño and associated changes in atmospheric conditions were major causes of climatic disruptions around the world. The environment group said El Niño in 1982-1983, considered the strongest this century, claimed some 1,500 lives and cost the world economy more than $8 billion.

In the country, a total of 72 people died as a result of El Niño-induced drought in 1997 and 1998. Forty-two of them were poisoned after eating root crops not well-prepared for human consumption.

The impact of El Niño-related droughts includes degradation of the soil, high risk of forest, grass and bush fire, as well as water supply shortages.

Droughts can also lead to migration to urban communities and health problems.

To mitigate the effects of the abnormal weather occurrence, the government has been implementing measures through the inter-agency El Niño National Action Team since June last year despite funding constraints. At least P2.9 billion is needed to neutralize the effects of El Niño, but the Department of Budget and Management has so far released only P700 million, according to Montemayor.

The Department of Agriculture has been rehabilitating irrigation systems. Of the 274 El Niño-related irrigation projects, five have been completed, 148 are ongoing and 123 are being prepared.

"We are providing various assistance and urging farmers to plant crops which need less water, such as vegetables and root crops," Montemayor said.

The department has also been conducting cloud-seeding operations in areas not experiencing rains, such as Bagabag town in Nueva Vizcaya, Tuguegarao City in Cagayan, and Plaridel town in Bulacan.

Cloud-seeding is also aimed at improving the water supply in three major dams in the country—the Pantabangan, Angat and Magat.

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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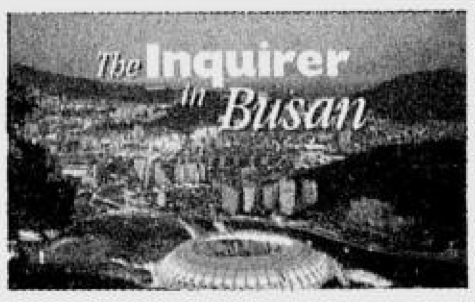
ASIAD BASKETBALL

RP blasts Nokor 5, gains q'finals

GAME TOMORROW
5 p.m.—RP vs Japan

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor


The Inquirer in Busan

BUSAN, South Korea—The Philippines beat North Korea with a minimum of effort last night, 89-63, and barged into the quarterfinals of Asian Games basketball competition at the Geumjeong Gym here.

Right from the start, all predictions about the game proved false. The North Koreans weren't that tough after all. After Asi Taulava, Olsen Racela, Eric Menk, Jeff Cariaso and Kenneth Duremdes dropped a 9-2 opening blast, the Filipinos were on their way to a second straight victory after destroying the United Arab Emirates on Saturday, 81-56.

With the victory, the Filipinos topped Group C with a 2-0 card and gave them good chances of a semifinal stint due to what appears on paper as relatively lighter opponents ahead of them.

RP's rosy road to the semis begins with the RP-Japan encounter tomorrow, with the Filipinos heavily favored to prevail in the 5 p.m. contest.

This materialized after South Korea routed Japan by 17 points yesterday, although Japan put the Koreans on pins and needles in the first half with Japanese leads of 10 points several times. Because of that, RP coach Jong Uichico predicted a "not so easy battle" against Japan tomorrow.

"That 17-point winning margin by South Korea over Japan looks deceiving," said Uichico. "Japan lost a player today who could score from 10 to 15 points a game."

Still, with the way the Filipinos humbled the North Koreans yesterday, it would seem the Philippines will not encounter rough sailing against Japan tomorrow.

Like a hubby's pregnant wife about to deliver their first child, the Philippines didn't labor at all against the North Koreans, whose touted Ri Myong-Hun, the 7-foot-9 man mountain, was thoroughly devastated by Asi Taulava.

Ri, who became a world celebrity about a decade back when the NBA tried—but failed—to recruit him, had become a lumbering old man at 35.

Seven of Ri's total of 13 points came from the free throw line. His nine rebounds paled in comparison to Taulava's game-high of 15.

"We had a change of plan just this morning based on our scouting job on him," said Uichico of Ri. "We first thought of double-teaming him. But we dropped that idea because we saw him to be a little slow already."

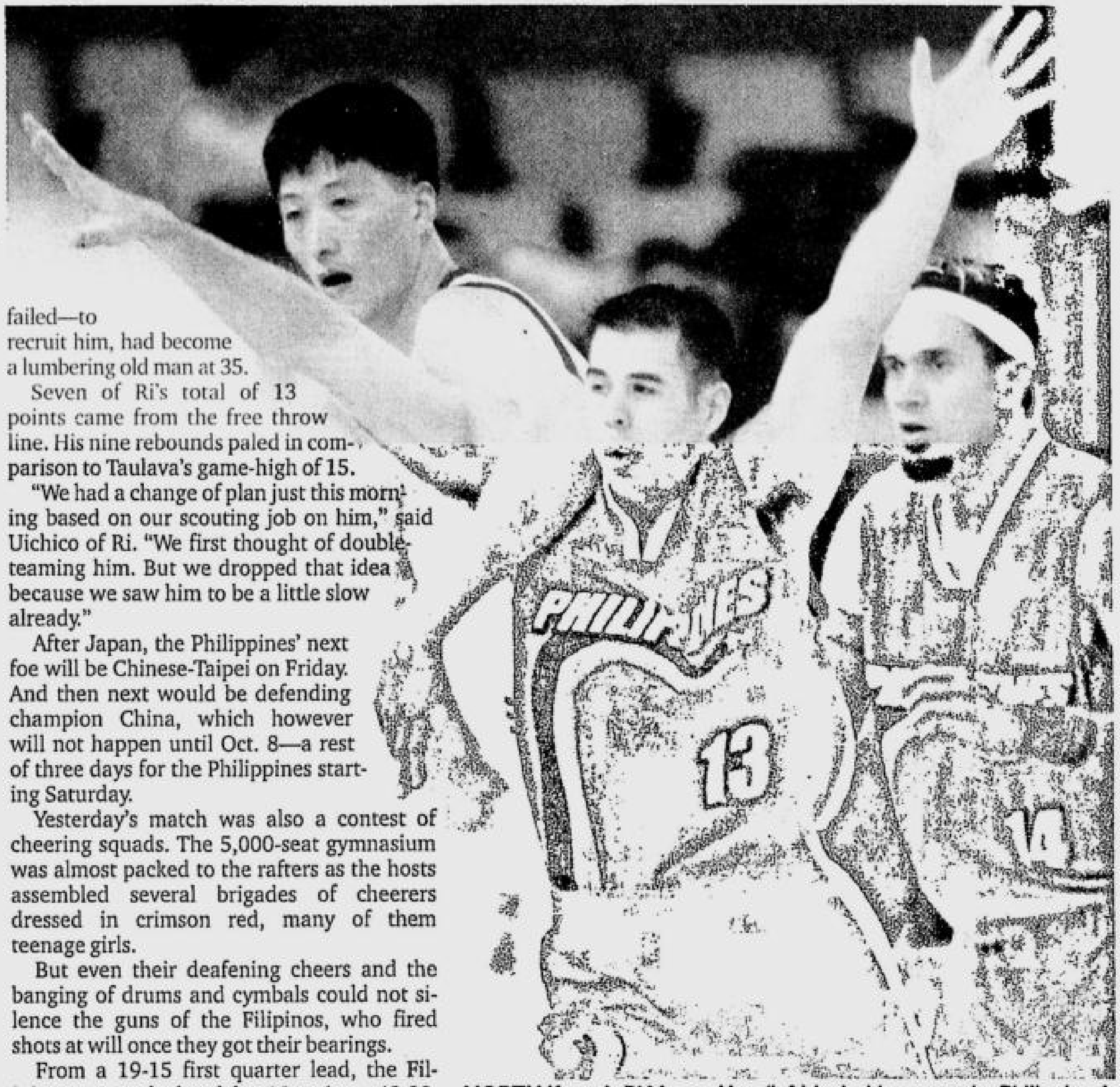
After Japan, the Philippines' next foe will be Chinese-Taipei on Friday. And then next would be defending champion China, which however will not happen until Oct. 8—a rest of three days for the Philippines starting Saturday.

Yesterday's match was also a contest of cheering squads. The 5,000-seat gymnasium was almost packed to the rafters as the hosts assembled several brigades of cheerers dressed in crimson red, many of them teenage girls.

But even their deafening cheers and the banging of drums and cymbals could not silence the guns of the Filipinos, who fired shots at will once they got their bearings.

From a 19-15 first quarter lead, the Filipinos zoomed ahead by 19 points, 48-29, midway in the second quarter before closing

RP BLASTS/ A24


NORTH Korea's Ri Myong-Hun (left) locks his arm at the Philippines' Rudy Hatfield as Asi Taulava looks on. The Filipinos prevailed, 89-63, to enter the quarterfinal round.

AP

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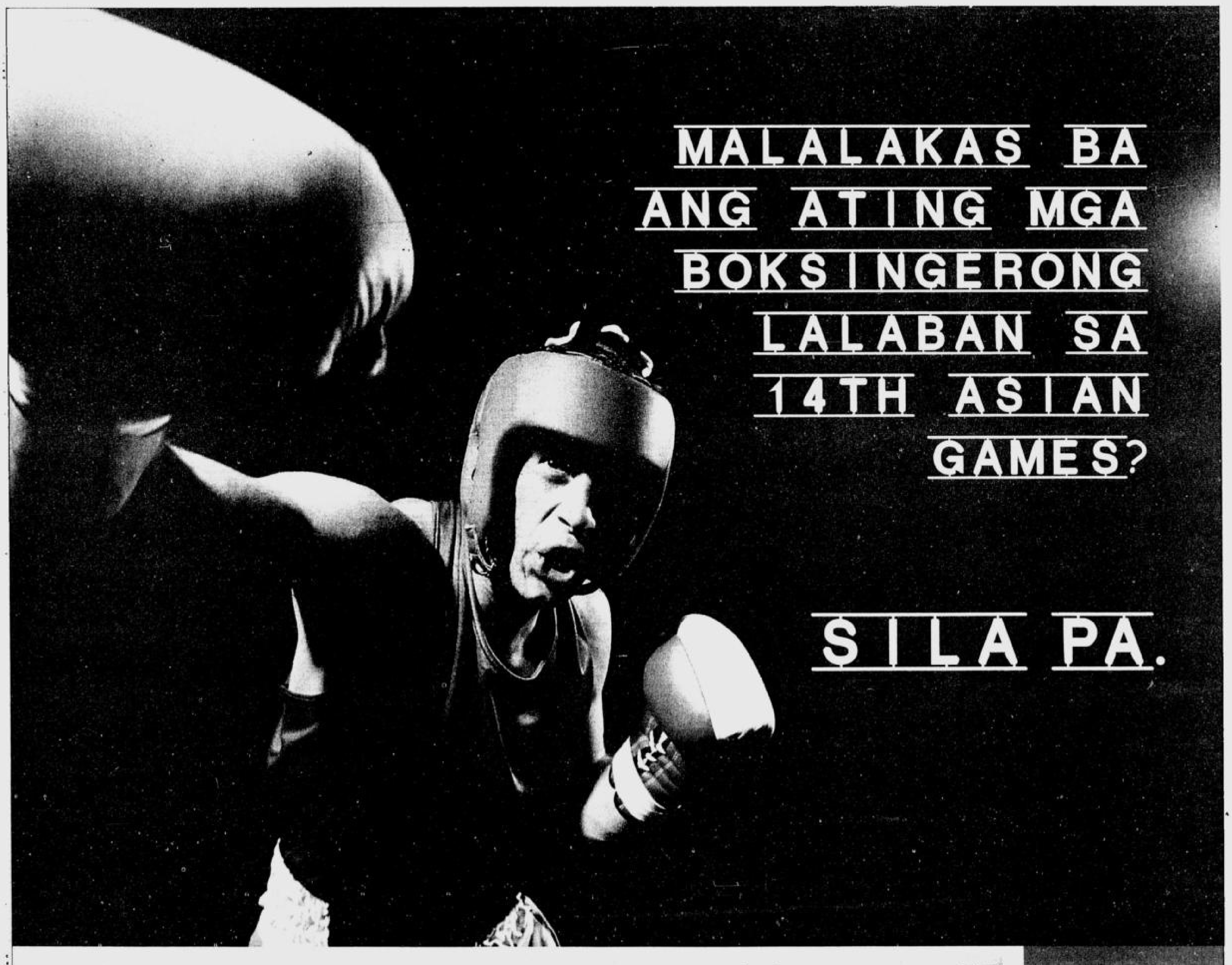
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WOODS A NON-FACTOR

Europe wrests Ryder Cup from US

By Stephen Wilson
AP Sports Writer

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England—By the time Tiger Woods marched down the 17th fairway in the final match, the Ryder Cup was already lost.

The world's greatest player wasn't even a factor as Europe wrested the gold trophy from the United States in a thrilling final day upset at The Belfry.

"It was frustrating," Woods said.

Europe's gambit of packing the top order of Sunday's singles lineup paid off; America's strategy of saving its best for last didn't.

The Europeans seized the early lead and, with their no-name rookies coming through at the tail end, beat the Americans at their own game in golf's most storied team event.

"Out of the shadows come heroes," European captain Sam Torrance said after journeyman Irish rookie Paul McGinley holed an 8-foot putt at the 18th hole to clinch the Cup.

The sides began the day tied 8-8. When it was over, Europe had won five of the 12 singles matches, tied five and lost two, to complete a remarkable 15 1/2-12 1/2 victory.

Drenched flag

European players, wives and caddies celebrated wildly on the 18th green, soaking Torrance in champagne. McGinley was tossed into the lake by his teammates and emerged waving a drenched Irish flag.

Europe has held the trophy after six of the last nine Cups, but this was only the third time since 1985 they have won the singles.

"Hopefully, that will say to the Americans we can play singles, and we can compete with them and also beat them," Colin Montgomerie said. "It was a superb day for European golf."

Montgomerie was the outstanding player of the 34th Ryder Cup, winning 4 1/2 points of a possible 5. But Europe also got huge contributions Sunday from rookies Phillip Price, who trounced Phil Mickelson 3 and 2; Nicolas Fasth, who took a half-point against Paul Azinger; and Pierre Fulke, who halved with Davis Love III.

"Pierre Fulke and Phillip Price and I talked about it this morning at breakfast," McGinley said. "One of us was going to be a hero, we're going to win this.

"Our top guns went out at the start, but it was unlikely that the first six matches would all be won. So it was going to filter down as to whether we were going to win the Cup or not."

First, it looked like Fasth would be the one to secure the winning point. But then, in one of the most dramatic shots in Cup history, Azinger holed his bunker shot at the 18th for an improbable birdie.

"It was lucky," he said.

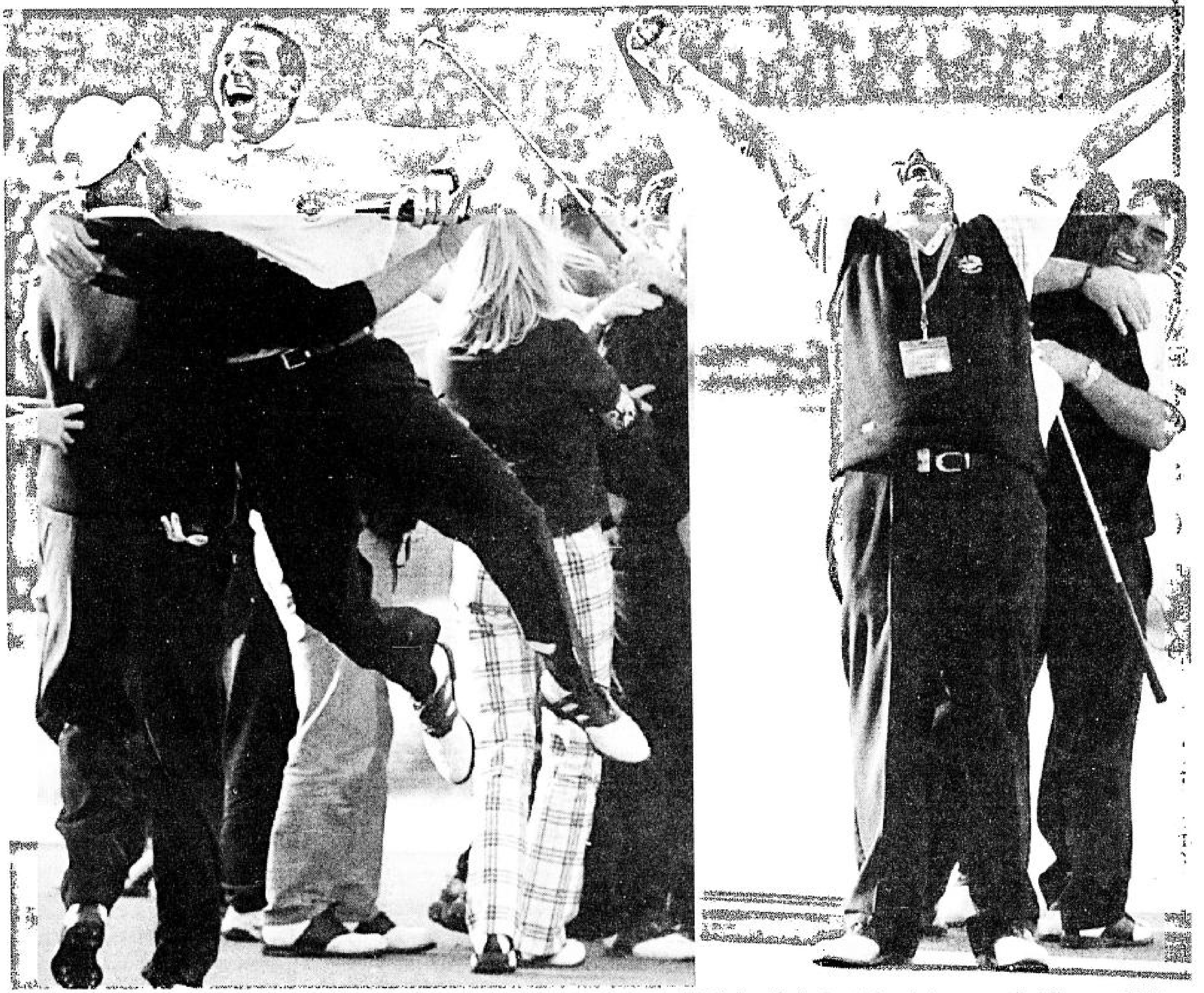
Greenside

Azinger leaped in the air and his teammates celebrated at greenside. When Fasth couldn't make his birdie putt, the U.S. team still had hope.

Behind him, though, Jim Furyk had lost the 17th hole. Furyk barely missed making another similar magic out of the bunker on 18. Then McGinley made his par putt to clinch the Cup.

"I loved to have that opportunity," McGinley said. "I knew the line of the putt. It was a matter of having the nerve to hit on the line, and fortunately I did."

Torrance, crouching at greenside, watched McGinley's putt go in, then lowered his head, overcome by emotion.



SERGIO Garcia of Spain leaps into the arms of a European team member (left photo) after Paul McGinley of Ireland sank the winning putt on the 18th green. Right photo shows Europe team captain Sam Torrance celebrating as another teammate hugs McGinley.

AP

4 birdies key Roberts Open win

By T.A. Badger
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO—Loren Roberts sank four birdies on his last six holes Sunday to finish at 19-under 261 and win the Texas Open.

It was Roberts' eighth career win on the PGA Tour, and his first since 2000. He took home the top prize of $630,000.

Roberts, who started the day in the lead, shot a bogey-free 64 Sunday to finish three strokes ahead of Fred Couples, Fred Funk and Garrett Willis.

Willis, who shot a final-round 66, was even for most of the front nine. Couples and Funk, who both shot 64 Sunday, quickly made up ground on Roberts by shooting 4-under 31 on the front nine at the par-70 La Cantera Golf Club course, north of San Antonio.

While Roberts steadily made pars early on the back nine, Couples and Funk piled up the birdies.

Funk birdied Nos. 11, 12 and 13 to take the lead at 17-under, and Couples caught up by making four straight birdies starting on the 128-meter (142-yard) 13th.

But both players slipped up and fell back.

For Funk, who posted his fourth runner-up finish of the year, the mistake came on the 342-meter (380-yard), par-4 16th. On the green in regulation, he left a 13.5-meter (45-foot) putt about 1.5 meters (5 feet) short, and then he missed for his only bogey of the day.

Couple's miscue came on the 128-meter (142-yard) 17th. Starting the hole at 17-under, he landed his drive in the rough behind the green, left his pitch well short and then missed a 6-meter (20-foot) par putt.

Around the same time that his opponents faltered, Roberts started gaining momentum.

After four straight pars, he birdied the 13th and the 474-meter (527-yard), par-5 14th to get to 17-under. After a par on No. 15, he hit his second shot 3.6 meter (12 feet) from the pin for a birdie on the 16th and then made a 13-footer for birdie on the 17th.

Willis, playing one group ahead of Roberts, ended his round with a pair of birdies to catch up to Funk and Couples.

Five players–Shaun Micheel, Kenneth Staton, J.L. Lewis, Joel Edwards and Pat Perez–finished at 14-under.

Bacolod 10K slated Oct. 20

THE COUNTRY'S oldest runner, 88-year-old Felipe Villanueva, and one-legged tri-athlete Rudy Fernandez will lead the participants in the final leg of the adidas Pharmaton 10K Run on Oct. 20 at the Bay Center Plaza in Bacolod City.

They are among the expected 500 runners from all over the country who will take part in the race, which has been designated as the official footrace of the Masskara Festival.

Masskara Foundation Inc. festival director Girlie Belzunce said the race will coincide with the celebration of the Masskara Festival, the provinces' annual tourist attraction.

Race director Raffy Uytiepo said DOTC Under Secretary Art Valdez and Mayor Joy Valdez will fire the starting gun at 6 a.m.

The race is also co-sponsored by Nature's Spring, Timex Uytiepo Lines, Hotel Alhambra, Rudy Project, Osaka Iridology, Jamie @ Rhythms while being backed by the City of Bacolod, Masskara Foundation Inc., Amity and the Province of Negros Occidental.

Registration is now ongoing at the adidas Shop 2nd level Robinson's Place, Athletes Foot, Robinson's Place, Panaad Sports Stadium c/o Efren Timtiman and Lopue's Mandalagan.

Lyceum cagers, Miriam spikers WNCAA champs

LYCEUM of the Philippines and Miriam College created the biggest stir Sunday when they ruled the basketball and volleyball titles, respectively, in the 33rd WNCAA-adidas at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

In the midget division, Assumption College prevailed in basketball while St. Benedict College lorded it over in volleyball.

The Lady Pirates, who also took Game One by two points, 69-67, thus regained the title they last won in 1999 and frustrated the Lady Blazers from achieving a Grand Slam.

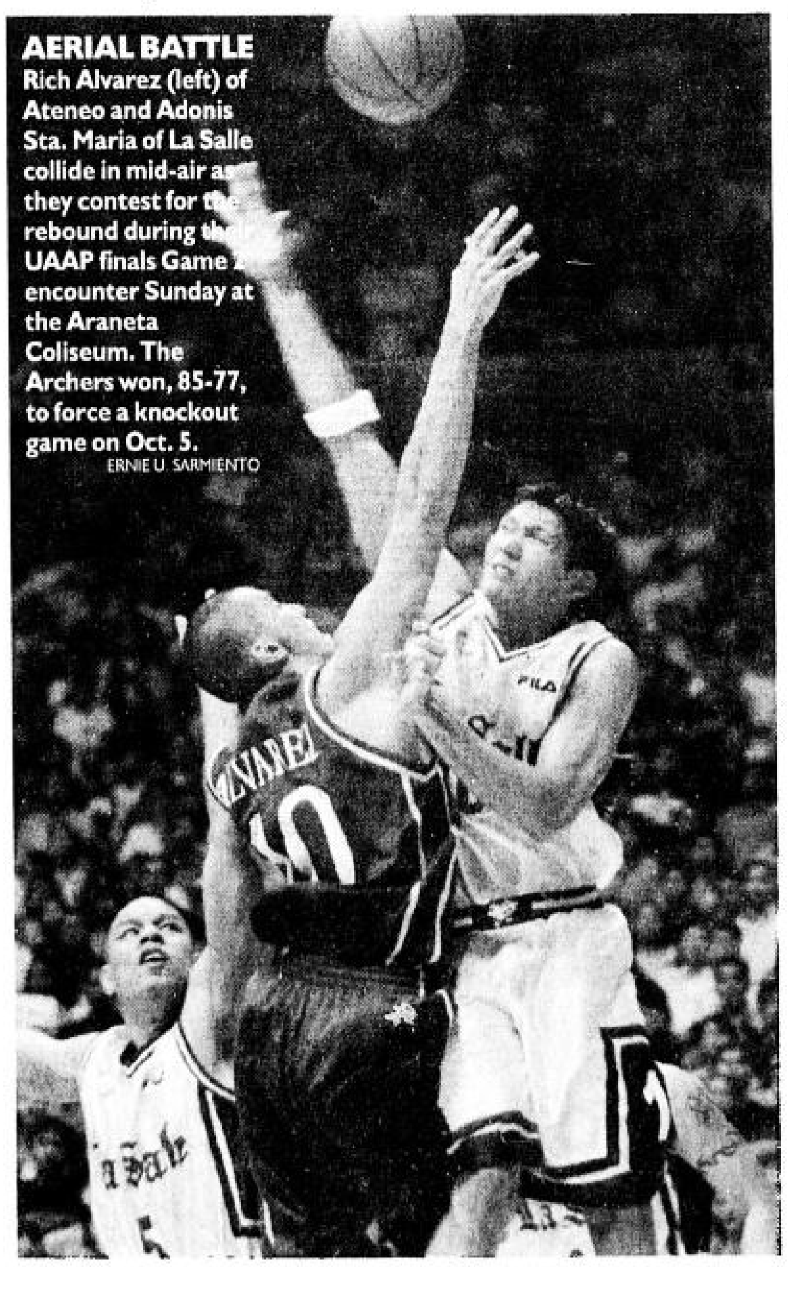
In volleyball, Lyceum stopped University of the Assumption-Pampanga anew, 25-13, 25-20, 18-25, 25-20, for its second straight title.

Running away with the Most Valuable Player awards in basketball were Assumption College's Annika Krishna Veloso (midget), Miriam's Michelle Velasco (high school) and Lyceum's Joan Caso (college).

The 33rd WNCAA-adidas was supported by RPN 9, dwRX 93.1, Don Henrico's Pizza, Avon, Elle, official marketing group Tactical Xperts Corporation and official balls Mikasa and Molten.

In the high school division, Miriam retained the cage championship by downing De La Salle Zobel, 77-57, while it improved on its third place finish last year by disposing off the same squad, 25-11, 25-17, in volleyball.

In the midget competition, Assumption leaned on Jessica Wilson's game-high 18 points to turn back St. Scholastica's College, 49-45, as the latter failed in its bid to win the cage title for the second straight year.



AERIAL BATTLE
Rich Alvarez (left) of Ateneo and Adonis Sta. Maria of La Salle collide in mid-air as they contest for the rebound during the UAAP finals Game 2 encounter Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. The Archers won, 85-77, to force a knockout game on Oct. 5.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Wack Wack hosts Invitational

THE GOLF Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) Invitational golf tournament, the aperitif to the seventh Philippine International Golf Show, will blast off today at the west course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Tee-off time is 7 a.m.

About 80 players from the active roster of the GDAP, sponsors and guests are taking part in the 18-hole tourney which ushers in the three-day golf show beginning Thursday.

A golfing holiday in Guam courtesy of Continental Airlines and Guam Visitors Bureau plus golf sets from Callaway, Mizuno and Wilson are at stake as major prizes.

The sponsorship roster includes Greg Norman and US Golf Kids through its distributor Planet Sports Inc., Lexber Holiday Intl., Caylabne, Absolute as the official water, Bayer Phils. and Gold's Gym as hole sponsors.

Prize sponsors are Rudy Project, Roche-Berocca, Bravo Restaurant, Del Monte, Century Park Hotel, Perfetti Van Melle, Jewelmer, Discovery Suites and Copperstone.

Mandaluyong derby unfolds

THE THIRD edition of the "Ucap Anito MB/Calvin Dominator 7-Stag Derby" unfolds today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Palawan sportsman Mauro Prieto, one of Ucap's founding members, will join Patrick Puno, Alan Tan and Wilvin Sy in hosting the event sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds, Pagcor and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug Inc.

Focus will be on the battle for Ucap's Stagfighter of the Year accolade. Engineer Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brilliantes (Blue Blade JBB), back-to-back Ucap Stagfighter winners, currently lead the race with 11.5 points.

Other top contenders are Ucap president Raymond Velayo (Arnis Master I, 10.5); Benjie Lim (4-Stag Pasay Oct. 4, 10); Ambassador Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina, 9.5); Boy Diaz (Purple Haze E-68, 9.5); OPMI president Vic Yu (King Boxer, 9.5).

Call 535-2341, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 534-4110.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Mario Castro clocked 1:08:52 to capture the North Luzon regional race of the 15th national Milo Marathon in Laoag City. Also today in 1991, Aldrin Romales notched 581 points to snare the individual championship of the 2nd Don Sergio Osmeña Memorial cycling championship in Cebu City.

DJANGO, BATA BYE

Snooker billiards today

REYES: Strong bet for billiards gold. FILE PHOTO

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—It's not the real thing yet but it's still billiards anyway. By real thing, we mean the pocket billiards.

The country's bets in snooker billiards see action today even as Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Efren "Bata" Reyes, the legendary pool sharks of the world, continued to while away their time at the spanking, state-of-the-art Athletes Village.

Their schedule is yet to be finalized. But as they wait for their turn at bat, the duo enjoy celebrity status at the Athletes Village where fellow athletes from the other 43 nations entered queue for both their autographs and photographs.

At the billiards hall of the athletes lounge, they try their best to focus on shots even when they are trying to relax just to entertain athlete-fans.

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

Benjamin Guevarra and Marlon Manalo will pair in the snooker doubles today, while Reynaldo Grandea plays in the partie libre singles.

Filipinos are not known to score well in snooker, a game famous in Great Britain and its Commonwealth nations and former colonies.

Manalo, a 26-year-old native of Tiaong, Quezon, and Guevarra start play at 10 a.m needing a win to advance in the prequarterfinals set today at 1 p.m.

Two more wins will push them to the semifinals set at 7 p.m.

Grandea, 42, from Bacolod City, must hurdle the preliminary's partie libre at 7 p.m. to make it to the next round.

The country won its only gold medal in the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games through Gande Valle and Romeo Villanueva in the doubles billiards.

So far so good, says PSC head of RP campaign

BUSAN, South Korea—Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain had some reasons to heave a sight of relief yesterday.

"So far, so good," said Buhain after Filipino athletes turned in modest performances in at least three fronts on Monday.

Rowers Benjamin Tolentino and Jose Rodriguez's creditable showing, Victor Espiritu's spirited run in cycling and Miguel Molina's bagging of a finals berth in swimming did not dim the country's campaign on the official Day One of the 14th Asian Games.

"It's only the start and it would only be Wednesday or Thursday when the real competition gets going," said Buhain, who together with Ephraim Genuino, chair of the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp., has relentlessly monitored the Filipinos' campaign in the Asian Games.

Genuino's presence, he said, only provides further assurance about government's concern over the campaign as well as guarantees the incentives of whoever wins in these games. "The chair's (Genuino) presence here signifies government's intention to provide the incentives to the medal winners," said Buhain.

Monday and Tuesday are rather light, in as far as medal hopes are concerned. "On Thursday, golf and billiards. A day before that, boxing commences." "But this early, I already commend the showings of our athletes who have already competed. They showed heart and determination in these games," he said.

Buhain is on his first major international event as chair of the PSC. He has predicted a minimum of four and a maximum of seven gold medals for Team Philippines. And he remained solid on that. "I still am for four to seven golds," he stressed.

RP SKED

October 1, 2002
(Korea time, 1 hr behind RP time)

SWIMMING
10 a.m.—Luica Dacanay, women's 200m individual (heats)
Miguel Molina, 200m freestyle (heats)
Jenny Guerrero, women's 100m breaststroke (heats)
Carlo Piccio, 200m butterfly (heats)
Note: Finals of these events start at 7 p.m.
BILLIARDS
10 a.m.—Benjamin Guevarra/Marlon Manalo, snooker doubles (preliminary)
1 p.m.—Snooker doubles, pre-quarterfinals
4 p.m.—Snooker doubles, quarterfinals
7 p.m.—Snooker doubles, semifinals
Reynaldo Grandea, partie libre singles (preliminary)
FENCING
10 a.m.—Walbert Mendoza, Edmond Velez, men's individual sabre (preliminary)
Ma. Lorella Bauzon, Lorraine San Diego, women's individual epee (preliminary)
7 p.m.—Men's individual sabre (finals)
7:30 p.m.—Women's individual epee (finals)
GYMNASTICS
3 to 8:20 p.m.—Roel Ramirez, pommel horse, parallel bars (idividual qualification)
JUDO
2 to 8 p.m.—Sidney Schwarzkopf IV, 81-90kg, men
Karen Ann Solomon, 63-70kg, women
Note: Preliminary, repechage, semifinal, finals for both men/women
ROWING
10 a.m.—Jose Rodriguez, lightweight single sculls, men (repechage, semifinal)
Benjamin Tolentino, single sculls, men (repechage, semifinal)
Alvin Amposta/Nestor Cordova, lightweight double sculls (repechage, semifinal)
SEPAK TAKRAW
10 to 11 a.m.—Circle, men's final (depending on RP team's first, second round results)
SOFTBALL
12:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Japan
SQUASH
10:30 to 12 noon—Second round singles (depending on Ricky Espinola's first round result)

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14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

Cagers, rowers provide bright note for RP drive

Big J advice to RP 5: Look out for Sokors

By Rocky Nazareno

JAWORSKI

IT IS host South Korea and not the vaunted Chinese juggernaut that the all-professional Philippine squad should look out for in the basketball competitions of the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

This was disclosed by Sen. Robert Jaworski who was a member of the last RP team that ever won against a South Korean squad right in the Koreans' own soil in the 1967 Asian Basketball Championships.

Jaworski had an illustrious career spanning almost four decades, earning him the title of Philippine basketball's "Living Legend," before he embarked on a political career by winning a seat in the Senate in 1998.

"It would really be hard because (when you face the Koreans in their own soil) you have to expect the stadium to be packed with their supporters," Jaworski noted.

And hometown support could go a long way in a tournament where national pride is at stake.

But Jaworski had a few tips on how to pull the near-impossible to reality.

Jaworski recalled how the Filipinos had to "dig deep into our hearts and soul" to beat their then perennial rivals for Asian basketball supremacy, the Koreans who had in their roster probably that country's most prolific shooter ever Shin Dong Pa.

Jaworski had particularly been tasked with putting the cuffs on Shin who had previously averaged more than 50 points a game previous to the finals.

In the finals, Jaworski shadowed Shin throughout and when the smoke cleared on the final match, the Korean star had barely coughed up 10 points as the Filipinos went on to snatch the gold from Korean hands right in their homecourt.

But as it was 35 years ago, Jaworski believes that what they had to contend with in facing the Koreans would be the same for the RP team which is projected to face the hosts in the semi-final round should it hurdle North Korea in its final elimination round assignment.

"(The Koreans) still have the same 'jump-pass,' they still have the uncanny ability to take off for a shot either from its left or right foot," said Jaworski.

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—Basketball delivered anew and rowing rode on big waves yesterday for the bright notes on the Philippine campaign in the 14th Asian Games here.

Swimmers sank into ignominy and cyclists got ditched in anemic Filipino performances on the first day of full-calendar activity in Asia's biggest Asiad ever.

Also absorbing setbacks were the country's bets in softball, fencing, judo and weightlifting in an otherwise ominous sign of things to come for the Philippines, whose only remaining claim to Asiad lore is not a lasting standing in the medal tally but its being a cofounder of the Games in 1951.

But Luica Dacanay created a minor ripple though when she broke her Philippine record in bowing out in the women's 200-meter butterfly.

Heidi Ong was ousted in her heat, finishing 11th out of 12 entries in the women's 200-m freestyle, and Raphael "Timmy" Ong bowed out after ending up fourth in the second heat of the men's 100-m breaststroke.

Only Miguel Molina rose from the pool with some pride after he surfaced as a fighting second in his heat to make the 200-m individual medley finals at Sajik.

Victor Espiritu, once a toast of Philippine bikathon who won a bronze in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, bombed out in the 48.4-kilometer individual time trial medal race.

His teammate Marites Bitbit from the distaff side also lost in the 24.2-kilometer individual time trial for a shutout in cycling's first day of competitions.

Espiritu was seventh at 1:06.05.86 while Bitbit was ninth at 39:32.12.

"That's not Marites' event," said Boying Rodriguez of Bitbit, a mountain bike specialist more than a time trial mainstay.

Rodriguez praised Espiritu, though, "because he beat the best from Vietnam, China, Hong Kong and even Korea."

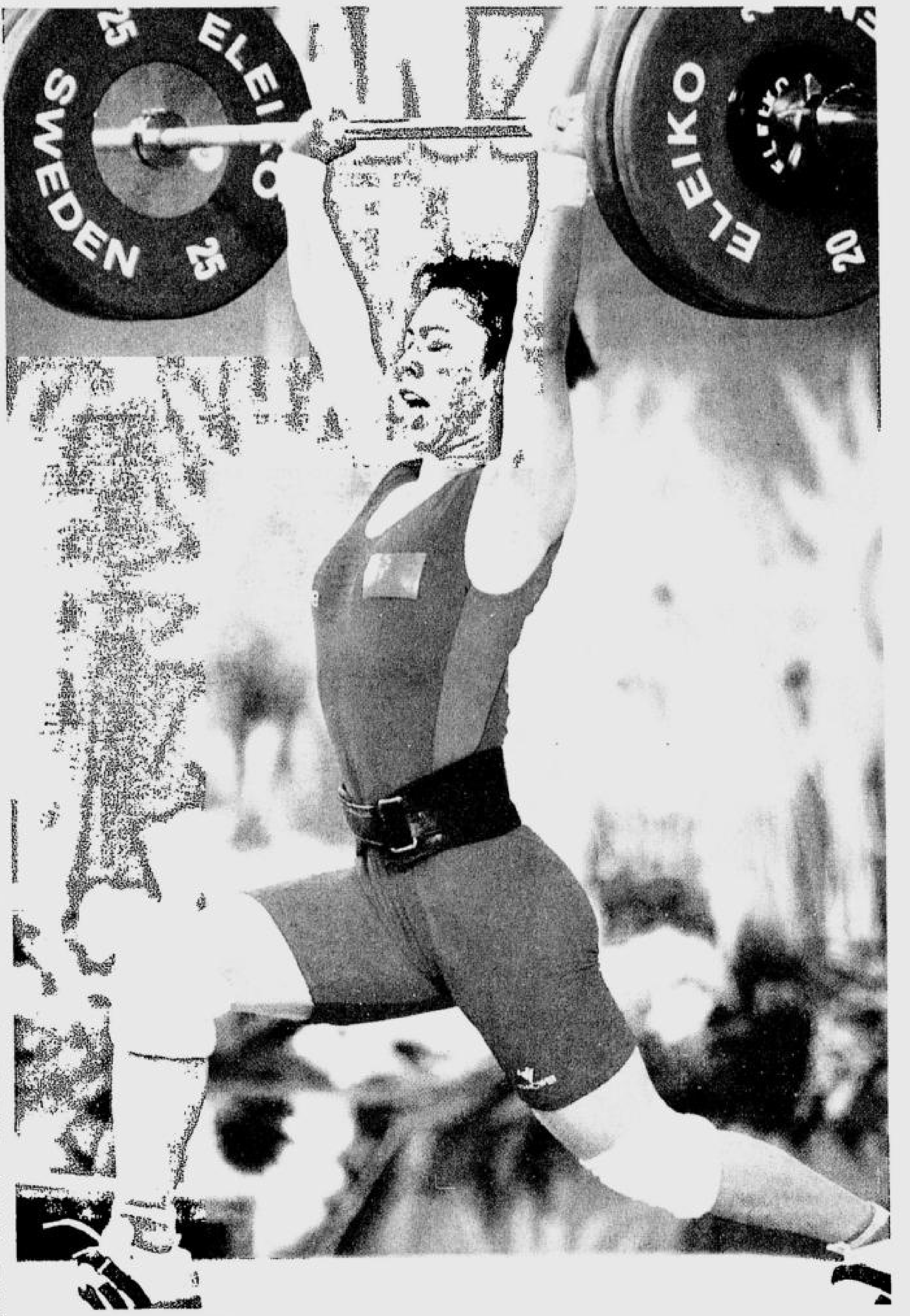
The riders from the Soviet satellite countries Kazakhstan, Kyrghyztan and Uzbekistan dominated the event by finishing 1-2-3.

The hosts blanked the RP Blu Girls, 5-0, Lenita Reyes was eliminated in fencing, judoka Aisa Marie Ano bowed to Korean Jo Su Hee and weightlifter Diwa Alegada fumbled in the women's 48-kilogram event won by China's Li Zhuo.

It was only when news about the Philippine quintet's 89-63 rout of North Korea filtered into the Athletes Village that a minor jubilation engulfed the 200-plus strong Filipino athletes housed there.

There were others at ringside who cheered coach Jong Uchico's boys, especially when the RP cagers started to pull away from the thoroughly devastated North Koreans in the second quarter after a tight first canto.

CAGERS/ A27



STRAINING FOR GOLD
China's Li Zhuo strains as she lifts up weights during clean and jerk competition of the women's under 48kg weightlifting final in the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, Monday. Li won the gold medal. AP

Pinoy pug chasing elusive dream in Busan

BUSAN, South Korea—Christopher Camat swapped a comfortable Las Vegas job two years ago for a one-way plane ticket to the Philippines, using the less-travelled Asian road in his quest to become a world champion.

The crop-topped furniture showroom consultant with a stylistic goatee now does his interior decorating in the boxing ring, going in with his lethal left fist to color his opponents black and blue.

Despite a short amateur career, the 23-year-old Filipino-American light middleweight plans to step up to the pros at the end of the Busan Asian Games and become a full-pledged prizefighter.

"My goal is to become the first Filipino middleweight champion," he told AFP here two days before the start of the Asiad boxing competition.

"It's an elusive dream that I'm trying to capture." The results have not been all that encouraging. He settled for bronze at the Asian qualifiers for the Sydney 2000 Olympics and missed the cut, and also won bronze at an international invitational championship in North Korea in July.

Boxing

But Camat believes it is best to enter the pros during his prime.

He said he first wants to become "Philippine champion, to Asian champion, then hopefully the world." Camat also joined the list of boxers and coaches who have voiced concern that the boxing competition at the Asiad could be tainted by the sort of 'home-town' decisions that marred the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

American Roy Jones Jr. was robbed of gold in those games despite dominating his final against a South Korean opponent.

"I watched the fight," Camat said. "They (the hosts) are cheats. I hope it doesn't happen to me." But he said he was not taking anything away from the host team. "They are also good fighters," he said. The Thais, Kazakhs and Uzbeks "are all good," he added.

Camat emigrated to California from the northern Philippines in 1987 to join his father, who worked at a computer chip factory in San Jose. After getting married and studying interior design and psychology, he moved to Las Vegas to work.

AFP

RP blasts ....

From page A21

the half at 49-31.

They tried to just coast along from there that even when the Koreans threatened to within 11 points at 52-63, Uichico said he was not worried at all.

"I knew they relaxed a bit," said Uichico. "But then every team has its own cold spell. We had ours tonight but I was confident it was but temporary."

From a "mere" 65-54 margin, Uichico's boys came blasting away anew to quickly restore order, building a 74-54 margin near the endgame.

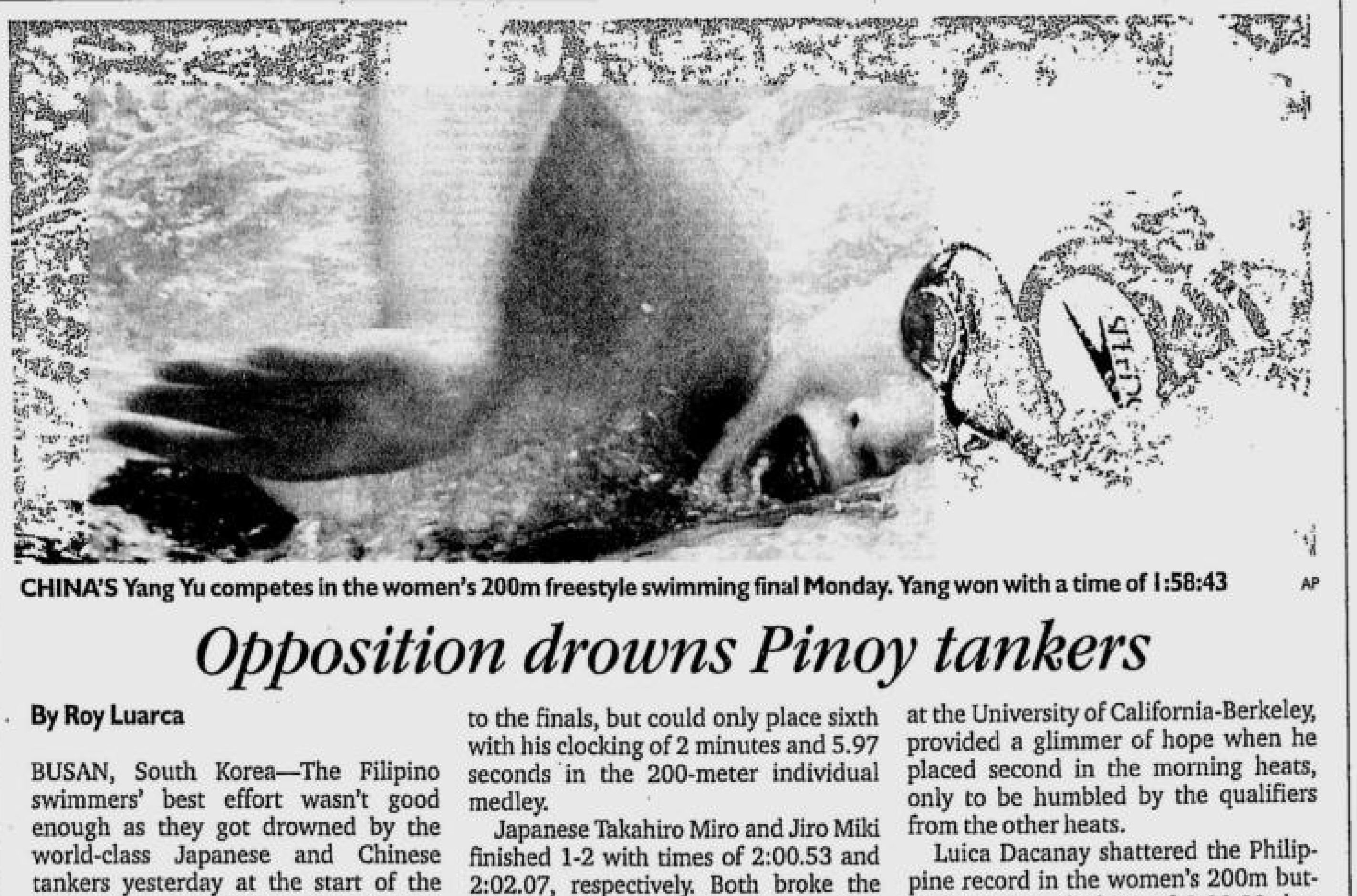
That margin was never reduced to dangerous levels again as the fired-up Filipinos dropped any idea of relaxing a second time.

"The smell of gold is in the air?" said Uichico. "Not yet. Let's just say let's take one game at a time."

Scores:

RP 89—Duremdes 21, Taulava 13, Racela 8, Hontiveros 8, Espino 6, Menk 6, Ildefonso 6, Seigle 6, Cariaso 6, Castillo 5, Pennisi 4, Hatfield 0.

NORTH KOREA 63—Pak 20, Ri 13, Pyo 9, Pak KN 8, Jo 6, Pak IC 5, Kim 2, Kim Ki 0.



CHINA'S Yang Yu competes in the women's 200m freestyle swimming final Monday. Yang won with a time of 1:58:43 AP

Opposition drowns Pinoy tankers

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—The Filipino swimmers' best effort wasn't good enough as they got drowned by the world-class Japanese and Chinese tankers yesterday at the start of the swimming competitions in the 14th Asian Games at the Sajik pool here.

US-trained Miguel Molina barged into the finals, but could only place sixth with his clocking of 2 minutes and 5.97 seconds in the 200-meter individual medley.

Japanese Takahiro Miro and Jiro Miki finished 1-2 with times of 2:00.53 and 2:02.07, respectively. Both broke the meet record as they relegated the Chinese bet to third after clocking 2:03.34.

The 18-year-old Molina, a freshman at the University of California-Berkeley, provided a glimmer of hope when he placed second in the morning heats, only to be humbled by the qualifiers from the other heats.

Luica Dacanay shattered the Philippine record in the women's 200m butterfly with a clocking of 2:23.20, but still landed sixth and last in her heat and 12th and last overall.

Filipino rowing bet gains finals

By Al S. Mendoza

Rowing

BUSAN, South Korea—Jose Rodriguez stunned even himself yesterday when he beat his more seasoned rivals in the Asian Games rowing competitions here.

Rodriguez, 31, clocked 7 minutes 32.14 seconds in the 2000-meter race to finish way ahead of the favored North Korean bet, Kang Jin Chol. The Korean clocked 7:41.9.

Rodriguez's other victims were Ping Chiahao of Taipei, Ivan Kharitonov of Kazakhstan and Amaradasa Hewaminuwandbniyage of Sri Lanka.

The 6-foot-flat Rodriguez's finish qualified him to the finals of the lightweight single sculls at the Nakdong River course here.

"I had a good start. It really helped," said Rodriguez, a gold medal winner in the 2001 Asian indoor championship in Hong Kong last year. He has been finishing well in tournaments aboard from 1996 to 2000, including other Hong Kong and Southeast Asian competitions.

Sydney Olympian Benjamin Tolentino Jr. and Alvin Amposta and partner Nestor Cordova finished second in their respective events and qualified for the repechage today starting at 10 a.m.

Tolentino lost by a mere two seconds to Japan's Yasunori Tanabe after his oar hit the lane buoy at the 1500-meter mark. He was ahead of the four-man pack when the accident happened.

"Okay *lang*," he said of the accident. "I still have a big chance in the repechage."

The 6-foot-1 Tolentino was a former national youth volleyball player and the grandson of the late basketball Olympian Nano Tolentino.

Judoka Baylon going all out

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Talk about a really battle-scarred athlete and you readily have John Baylon in mind.

Baylon, 39, is seeing his fourth Asian Games. The 5-foot-9 Baylon said he would exit with a bang—if this should be his last Asiad at all.

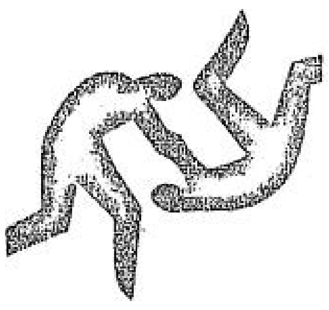
"I'm all out in making it to the medal race this time," he said. "It's tough after being in this sport for so long. But I'm still mentally and physically ready after all these years."

Baylon, entered in the judo half middle, has been in the sport 11 years—with no Asiad medal to show as yet. But he is a five-time SEA Games champion.

His best finish in the Asian Games since his Asiad debut in Beijing 12 years ago was seventh.

"Something good must happen to me now," he said.

Baylon remains the country's No. 1 hope in judo even as he continues to rue the stigma of a first-round loss in the 1990 Beijing Games. He ranked seventh both in the 1994 Hiroshima and 1998 Asian Games.



The Filipino idol, who considers Korean Ahn Dong Jin as the toughest in his bracket, trained for five months in the Kodokan gym in Japan in preparation for the Busan Games.

"The training would surely help me as I face some of the world's best in my bracket," said Baylon, who starts action tomorrow. "If all goes well, I would meet Jin in the third round."

His first opponent is Kuwait's Ghanman Aldikan. Baylon said Uzbekistan's Farkhod Tuarev and Japan's Yoshihi Akiyama are the other potential medallists aside from Jin "and me."

Tuarev is 6-foot-2 and No. 2 in the world. Baylon said Akiyama is unranked but "he has already won the French Open, the Kodokan Cup and the German Open."

Baylon said he expects his teammates Abraham Pulia and Ariston Lucero to perform well in their class weights.

"If they get the breaks, I'm sure they'll deliver the goods," he said. But more than the break, Baylon said it's hard work that should help them pull through the opposition.

"I've waited too long to win a medal in the Asian Games," said Baylon.

"I hope I'll finally accomplish that dream of a lifetime."

VIETNAM'S Nguyen Minh Phuong (left) pulls the jersey of Thailand's Dusit Chalermsan as they battle for the ball during the Asian Games men's football preliminary match in Masan, South Korea, Monday. Thailand won, 3-0. AP

The train man

BUSAN, South Korea—Mercy, please take a memo to Ahn Sang-young. He is the Mayor of Busan:

"Dear Mayor:

"Just love your city. Clean. Peaceful. Save for some drunks who love to puke in the streets at night, kimchi really tastes good. And people are very kind. Just yesterday, I met a guy at the train station. Fearing I might lose my way, he brought me back to my hotel. He was with his wife. But he told her to go home ahead of him. He had a job to do: Act as my bodyguard.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

"We never talked as we trudged back to my hotel, a good 15-minute walk from the train station. He couldn't talk English. The map I held was our interpreter.

"When we reached my hotel, he took me to the manager. After a brief chat, they shook hands and it was farewell. He refused my invitation for dinner. After I said thank you, he bowed and left, at first walking backwards. He broke into a grin before turning gently and next disappearing in the night.

"If that guy voted for you, his vote was worth a thousand votes.

"Well, that was the good side of the city. Or the good part of your leadership?

"Here's the bad part of your turf. Or the minus side of your hosting Asia's biggest Asian Games.

"Media men with laptops lost their modems at the Main Media Center. First time it happened to them in an international sports event.

"The SK Telecom people did it. They disabled our modems by replacing them with the Kornet, the only system that allows us to get to our newspaper offices through the internet. Why you allowed that to happen, we only have one explanation in mind: To make more money out of the Games.

"There are 6,914 media men covering the Games-and counting. The Kornet is a must for our laptops or we won't get to our newspaper offices. It costs only $11. But multiply that by 6,914, the amount would be almost $75,000. Not bad. Add expenses for the phone cards to make the Kornet work, you'd really be making a killing.

"It's okay to earn some. The modern Olympics have been doing that since that baseball genius turned the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics into a commercial success.

"But to also fry us poor media men in your racket, why, isn't that gross?

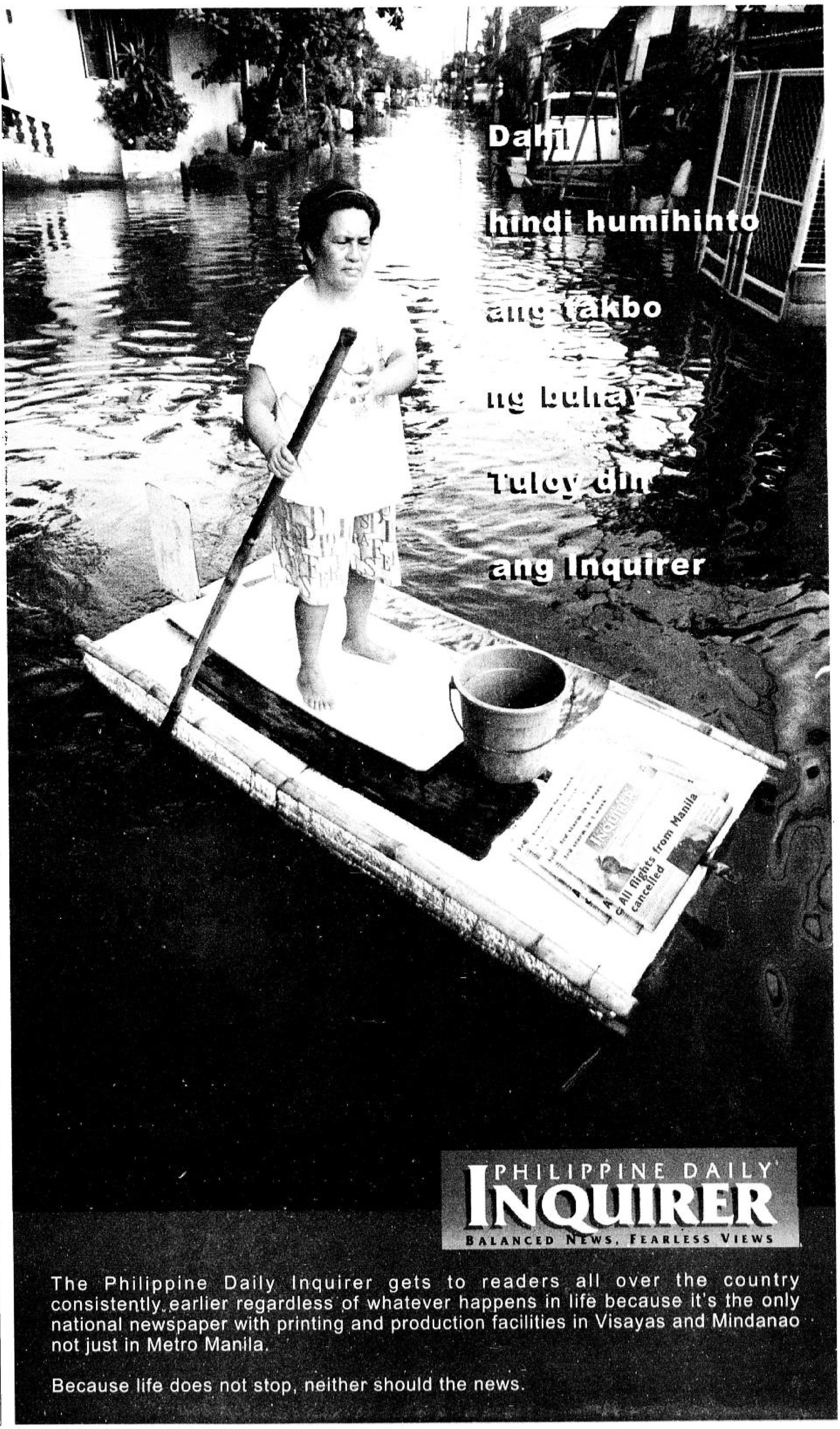
"We are here to work, not endorse shoes or soft drinks like the athletes. We are not saying our bosses can't pay $11 dollars and other expenses for the phone cards.

"But to force us to use Kornet that would disable our modem that has been in use for a decade or so now is simply horrible. Isn't that some sort of stifling the media?

"Forgive me but to be honest, your Main Media Center is the most unfriendly media center yet I've ever seen in my 28 years as a sportswriter. If I sound rude, my apologies, your honor.

"Till here. Good luck. May your Games be a success.

"P.S. Can you show me the way to the train station? I'd like to see the train man again-my kind of Busan buzz."



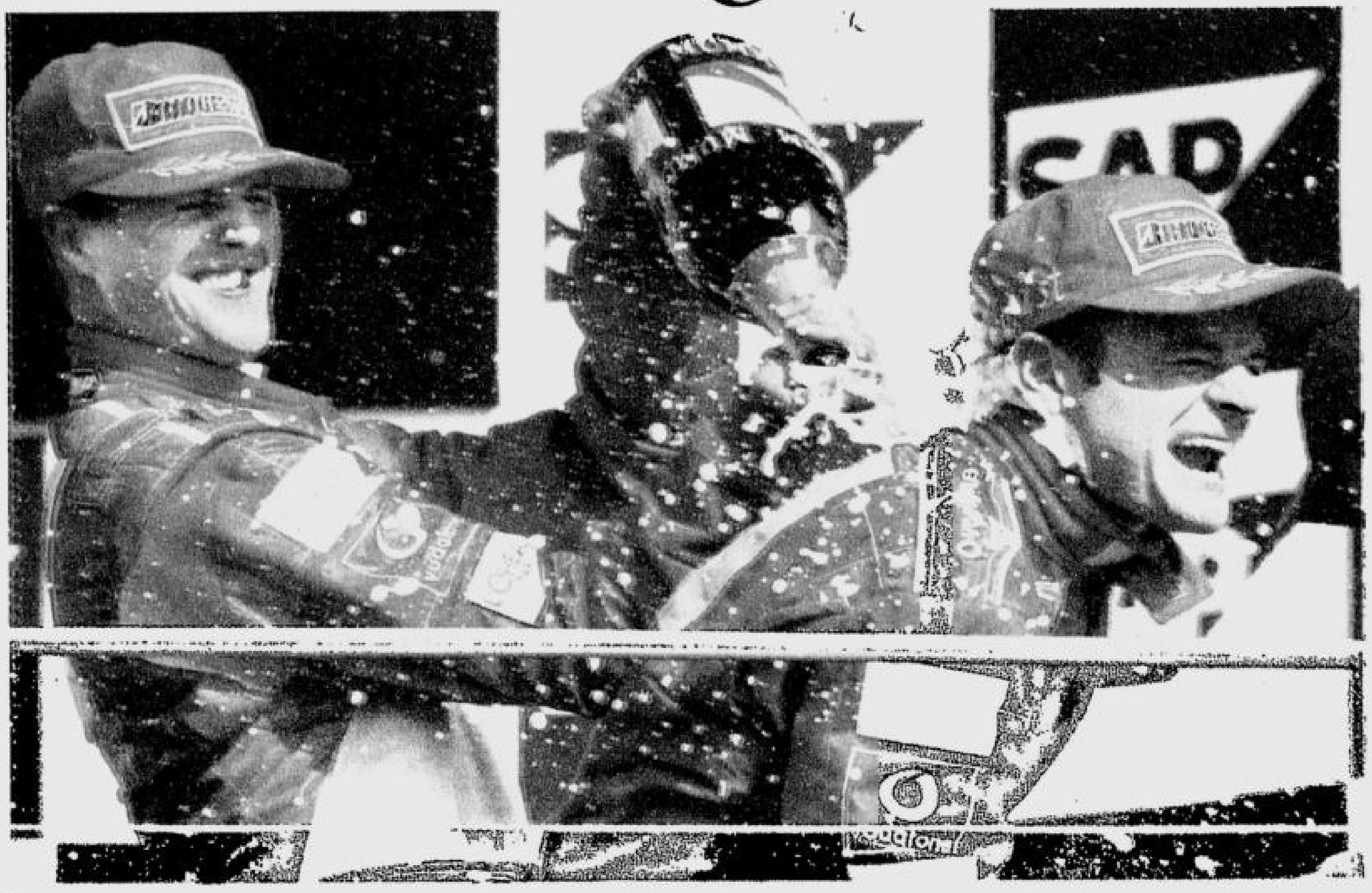
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The Philippine Daily Inquirer gets to readers all over the country consistently earlier regardless of whatever happens in life because it's the only national newspaper with printing and production facilities in Visayas and Mindanao not just in Metro Manila.

Because life does not stop, neither should the news.

FERRARI TEAMMATES

Schumacher gifts Barrichello GP title



SCHUMACHER (left)pours victory champagne on Barrichelo.

AP

By Mike Harris
AP Motorsports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS—Payback was sweet for Michael Schumacher and even sweeter for Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello.

Barrichello was delighted—and surprised—to find himself the winner of the United States Grand Prix on Sunday, a race in which he chased teammate Michael Schumacher without much success for all but the last two of the 73 laps at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

When Schumacher slowed to let Barrichello catch him, it was the opposite of what happened on May 12 in Austria.

That was the day Barrichello — obeying team orders — allowed Schumacher by on the final straightaway at the A1-Ring for the victory. At the time, Schumacher had yet to clinch his fifth Formula One title.

"Today was a payback and I'm completely happy with the situation," Barrichello said of the finish that will likely cause a wave of criticism like the one that followed the Austrian race.

"We were going for it. We were fighting," Barrichello said of the finish. "I pushed every button I could to pass him. At the end, we were close together. If people want to think I won Austria and he won Indy, that's it."

The two red cars were side-by-side as they crossed the yard of bricks that designate the finish line on the oval portion of the speedway's 2.606-mile (4.19-kilometer), 13-turn road course.

Barrichello won by 0.011 seconds, the closest finish in Formula One since Peter Gethin beat Ronnie Peterson by 0.01 second in the 1971 Italian Grand Prix.

The official timing was recorded only to hundredths of a second at that time.

"It took me three-quarters of a lap to realize I'd won because I was pointing at him and he was pointing at me," Barrichello said.

At Indy, Schumacher, who secured the championship in July, was fastest in every practice, set a track record in qualifying, and was nearly untouchable in the race.

With a four-second lead and just four laps remaining, it appeared he was on the way to an easy victory that would have been his record 11th of the season.

That's what made the finish so surprising.

As the leaders shot out of the last turn onto the main straightaway, Schumacher slowed perceptibly, and Barrichello pulled alongside. The cars crossed the finish line together with the more than 100,000 fans standing and roaring.

The teammates hugged after climbing out of their cars.

"I got to the last corner and I didn't know what to do," Barrichello said. "Nothing had been said. Michael was just very kind to let us finish equally. I think it's 0-0 now."

Schumacher, who has been the overwhelming presence in F1 this season, played coy when asked if he let his teammate win this time.

"There wasn't any plan," Schumacher insisted. "But I didn't feel particularly happy with what happened in Austria. To be honest, with what happened here, I feel it has been somewhat equalized.

Serena crushes Russian rival in Leipzig, extends win streak

WILLIAMS: Winner of the last three Grand Slam events.

LEIPZIG, Germany—World number one Serena Williams extended her amazing run by crushing Russia's Anastasia Myskina 6-3 6-2 in Sunday's Leipzig Grand Prix final.

The athletic American is now the most prolific woman on the circuit this year with eight titles–one more than elder sister Venus, who took a rest this week but will play the Kremlin Cup starting on Monday in Moscow.

The younger Williams, who turned 21 on Thursday and has won the last three Grand Slams of the season with as many final victories over Venus, easily outpowered Myskina.

The sixth-seeded Russian, who had knocked out title holder Kim Clijsters of Belgium in a thrilling semifinal on Saturday, could do little against the top seed and overwhelming favorite's heavy artillery.

The 21-year-old world number 12 now looks set to enter the top 10 for the first time when the latest WTA rankings are released on Monday.

Myskina had lost to Serena once before, in a tournament in Moscow in 1997. The American was then a qualifier, ranked 448th in the world.

"I'm not playing the kind of tennis I would like to," said Serena, who has now won 53 of the 57 matches she has played this year. "I'm still making too many unforced errors."

Myskina moved fast and varied her game well but Serena was just too powerful for her. The Russian managed an early break to build a 2-1 lead in the first set but her opponent broke back immediately and then took control.

An early break set up the world number one in the second set and she stayed on top until converting the fourth match point.

She had little time to rest after making sure of $93,000 in prize money as she was then kept busy by winning the doubles final with partner Alexandra Stevenson. The American pair beat Slovakia's Janette Husarova and Argentine Paola Suarez 6-3 7-5.

Serena, who had never played in Leipzig before, will return to Germany in just over a week as she heads a strong field in the Filderstadt tournament starting on October 7. *Reuters*

Codiñera chessfest on

REGISTRATION for the P30,000 Codiñera memorial annual chess tournament is now in full swing at the club's new headquarters located at the 3rd floor of J & F Divino Bldg. at #967 Aurora Boulevard, near Anonas Street in Quezon City.

The tournament is divided into two sections, open and unrated. The open champions will receive the lion's share of P7,000 while the unrated champ gets P3,000.

Consolation award also awaits the top performer in the 2300 below, 2100 below, 1900 below, women and kiddies.

The open section will adopt the time control of one hour and thirty minutes per player and games will now be played during weekdays; MWF, starting 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 4.

The unrated section will be a one-day affair and will start on Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. using the time control of twenty-five minutes per player.

Gonzalez wins ATP

PALERMO, Sicily—Fernando Gonzalez shrugged off a sluggish start to beat his friend and training partner Jose Acasuso 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 in the final of the $381,000 ATP event here on Sunday.

The 22-year-old Chilean found the blustery conditions in the Sicilian capital hard to get to grips with in the first set, making a series of errors on key points.

But after Acasuso wrapped that up the three-year-younger Argentine missed a break in the fourth game of the second set, allowing Gonzalez to take that and race away with the third too.

"The wind put me off at the start," said Gonzalez. "It's not easy to play against a friend and a training companion." *AFP*

CTW chief to run for Philta prexy

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHILDREN'S Tennis Workshop head Jovy Mamawal recently filed his certificate of candidacy for national president of the Philippine Tennis Association slated Jan. 4.

Mamawal beat the Sept. 30 deadline set by the Philta constitution and by-laws.

However, incumbent Philta president Buddy Andrada and secretary general Johnny Marfil claimed that such deadline does not exist.

"Obviously, they just want to mislead the tennis community so that the other sports leaders would not file on time," said Mamawal in an overseas telephone interview from Busan.

Mamawal is coaching the RP soft tennis team led by Josephine Paguyo in the Asian Games.

Mamawal's certificate of candidacy was delivered by his CTW group and was received by Marfil himself.

Andrada earlier expressed his desire to run for another term, thereby setting up a head-on collision with Mamawal, who has been his No. 1 critic.

"Everybody can run in the election, I won't get in the way of Mamawal as long as we all follow the Philta constitution," said Andrada.

Mamawal explained that they will pursue their mission to put Philippine tennis back on the right track by reviving age-group and inter-club tournaments which he claimed have been neglected by Andrada's group.

2002
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WORLD VOLLEYBALL
Russia's Pavel Abramov smashes the ball against Bulgaria's Plamen Konstantinov, Hristo Tsevetavov and Nikolay Ivanov during their Men's Volleyball World Championship first round match. Bulgaria won the game, 3-1. Also winning in the opener were the United States, Yugoslavia, Brazil and Italy. AP

SportsTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

American Fottball: NFL 2001 Denver Broncos Yearbook, 7:30 a.m., 2001 Baltimore Ravens Yearbook , 8 a.m., NFL Blast, 8:30 a.m., Denver Broncos vs Baltimore Ravens, 9 a.m., ESPN

Golf: PGA Texas Open, 2 p.m., Star Sports
This is the PGA Tour, 9 p.m., Star Sports

Baseball Results

American League– Toronto 1, Detroit 0; Cleveland 7, Kansas City 3; Boston 11, Tampa Bay 8; NY Yankees 6, Baltimore 1; Minnesota 3, Chicago White Sox 1; Oakland 8, Texas 7; Anaheim 7, Seattle 6.

National League–Montreal 7, Cincinnati 2; NY Mets 6, Atlanta 1; St. Louis 4, Milwaukee 0; Chicago Cubs 7, Pittsburgh 3; San Diego 2, Los Angeles 0; San Francisco 7, Houston 0; Colorado at Arizona; Philadelphia at Florida. *Reuters*

29 Days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that Houston sixth man Eric "Sleepy" Floyd sizzled for an NBA Playoffs record 29 points in a single quarter against LA in 1987? Houston won the game but the Lakrs went on to win their 4th NBA title of the '80s.

Yankees beat Orioles for home-field advantage

BALTIMORE—The New York Yankees clinched home-field advantage throughout the AL playoffs, using homers by Rondell White and Jason Giambi to beat the Baltimore Orioles 6-1 Sunday.

Rondell White and Jason Giambi propelled the Yankees, who finished a major league-best 103-58 and headed home for their first-round series against Anaheim.

"It's important for us to have that advantage and eliminate one of those cross-country trips down the road, if it comes to that," said Mike Mussina (18-10), who allowed one run—unearned—and six hits in five innings. *AP*

Moeller homers twice as D'Backs strike Rockies

PHOENIX—The Arizona Diamondbacks clinched home-field advantage for the first round of the playoffs, with Chad Moeller homering twice and driving in six runs Sunday for an 11-8 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

Arizona already knew it was starting the postseason against National League champion St. Louis on Tuesday.

Once the Cardinals beat Milwaukee 4-0, the Diamondbacks needed to win to finish with a better record and begin the series in Phoenix—otherwise, it would've opened in St. Louis.

"That's the way this team has been the two years I've been here," first baseman Mark Grace said. *AP*

Johnson takes wins, ERA, strikeout titles

NEW YORK—A Boston Red Sox capturing a batting title is nothing new, Randy Johnson putting up unreal numbers is becoming almost as common.

Manny Ramirez walked in his only plate appearance Sunday and won his first American League batting crown, while Johnson captured the wins, ERA and strikeout titles in the National League.

With all eight playoff teams set following Saturday's action, the big questions remaining as the Major League Baseball season came to a close Sunday involved some of the statistical leaders. *AFP*

KAZAKHSTAN'S Andrei Teteriouk crosses the finishing line to win the men's time trial gold. AFP

ASIAD ROUNDUP

Japan tankers steal show but China holds top spot

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—Japan raced to four gold medals in swimming and won two more in its native martial art of judo Monday, eclipsing China on the Asian Games' first full day of competition.

China still held the overall lead—seven gold medals to six—thanks to two fencing titles won while the opening ceremonies were under way Sunday night.

Weightlifter Li Zhuo tied world records for snatch and total lift in winning one of China's five golds taken Monday. In the women's 48-kilogram class, Myanmar's Kay Thi Win tied the same two records, but had to settle for silver because of her heavier body weight.

Chinese also won gold Monday in fencing, swimming, cycling and judo.

Host South Korea, a keen rival of Japan for second place behind China in the final standings, started with one gold in fencing and one in judo, where it had to settle for silver in two other championship matches.

Kazakhstan's Andrei Teteriouk led a Central Asian sweep in men's 48.4-kilometer time trial cycling.

In the pool, Japan started with Takahiro Mori smashing his own games record in the men's 200-meter individual medley and finished with its 800-meter freestyle relay quartet setting an Asian record.

Kosuke Kitajima won the men's 200-meter breaststroke, also in a games record time, and Yuko Nakanishi led Japan's 1-2 finish in the women's 200 butterfly.

Yu Yang led a 1-2 Chinese finish in the women's 200 freestyle.

"Mori swam fast so I tried to swim faster," said Kitajima, back in action after an elbow injury forced him out of last month's Pan Pacific championships.

He won in 1 minute, 0.45 seconds, well ahead of the 1:03.04 of China's Zeng Qilang.

Mori's 2:00.53 broke his old games record of 2:03.03 and also put him more than a second ahead of teammate Jiro Miki.

In the relay, leadoff swimmer Shunichi Fujita came from behind to give Japan a one-second lead after the first leg, and the Japanese finally won by 4.77 seconds over China.

In weightlifting, Li and Kay Thi Win each lifted a total of 200 kilograms—90 in the snatch and 110 in the clean in jerk. Indonesia's Raema Lisa Rumbewas won the bronze with a total of 195.

Koreas forge quarterfinals showdown

BUSAN, South Korea—Political rivals North and South Korea booked a Thursday quarterfinal round Asian Games men's basketball showdown, a landmark matchup of political rivals that already has a victory guarantee.

South Korea defeated rival Japan, 79-62, while Philippines downed North Korea, 89-63, in preliminary games here Monday, ensuring 7-foot-9 giant Ri Myong-Hun and his North teammates would face the skilled 3-point shooters from the South.

"Although there is Ri Myong-Hun, I am sure we will win against North Korea," said Moon Kyung-Eun, who scored 26 points in South Korea's comeback victory.

Mind games began even before the tough talk. North Korean players were cheered when they walked into the arena early in the fourth quarter of South Korea's victory, the yells for Ri loudest of all.

Not only did the South Koreans notice, they opened the final period with a 15-4 run that was intended to send a message to their Communist future foes.

Thursday's meeting for bragging rights on the court will be the focus of attention in both nations, whose delegations walked into the Opening Ceremony here Sunday together under a unity flag of the Korean peninsula. *AFP*

2002 Busan Asian Games
DREAM OF GOLD

Tightly secured

BUSAN—Almost all members of the Philippine Delegation to the 14th Asian games are here.

The 200-plus Filipino athletes are billeted at the spanking Athletes Village. Nobody is allowed to go there, not even media men, unless a pass is issued. Both media and official badges will not be honored.

The Athletes Village is secured tightly by commando units trained to combat international terrorism. man and machine are virtually off-limits within the vicinity. Even athletes without their IDs are not allowed permission. The buses that bring them inside will have to pass through a metal track designed to detect bombs that may have been attached underneath the chassis.

"Even the President of Korea is not allowed inside, unless he is issued a One-Day Pass," said the Korean official guide of the Philippine delegation.

The Philippines will compete in 30 of the 38 disciplines listed in the Asian Games calendar from Sept. 28 to Oct. 14.

Should the Filipinos win two gold medals, it will surpass their one-gold medal victory in 1998 in Bangkok. That gold was won by Romeo Villanueva and Gandy Valle in the billiards doubles.

The Bangkok Asiad was a debacle as boxing came home without a gold medal after snatching three gold medals in Hiroshima in 1998.

***

This time though, boxing is expected to redeem itself. At least two gold medals are being targeted by Manny Lopez' boys, who had been sent to numerous competitions abroad through the robust financial support of Caltex.

Aside from boxing, those being mentioned as possible gold-producers are the other two Bs—billiards and bowling.

Also being groomed to win gold medals are the sport of golf, wushu, taekwondo and possibly judo.

***

In the spirit of unity which is sports all about anyway, Olympic officials led by Cito Dayrit and Philippine Sports Commission officialdom headed by Eric Buhain have resolved to work together to ensure a trouble-free campaign for the Philippine delegation to the Busan Asian Games.

With the flag issue also now resolved and North Korea's colors allowed to fly in the duration of the Asiad, it will not be long when the Koreas become one. It can be done. Did they not march together during the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2001 Sydney Olympics?

In sports, nothing is impossible.

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Get continuous live coverage of the Asian Games on Dream TV Channel 42. Call us at 918-8000.

Cagers . . .

From page A24

"Our team played inspired basketball and I hope they keep it up all the way," said Cito Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"They definitely did the country proud."

Not tipped to score an easy win against a North Korean squad noted internationally for its rugged brand of play, the Filipinos draped the stadium with a hale of points. They came in torrents and, early in the third quarter, they were so dominating that they looked as if they were teaching a bunch of kids basketball clinic on how to play true basketball.

Rower Jose Rodriguez provided the day's other inspiration by barging into the finals of the lightweight single sculls.

Their performances drew praise from Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission.

"I'm indeed very proud of them" he said of the cagers and Rodriguez.

He said the early setbacks was just temporary. "We've just started and there's still a long way to go," he said.

"But amid the early disappointment is the happiness of seeing our athletes from bowling, boxing and cycling cheering our cagers to victory."

Said delegations mixed with fans, who jampacked the Geomjeung Stadium during the RP-North Korea game that saw the Filipinos top Class C for an easy passage to the quarterfinals.

Added Buhain: "Surely, that was a remarkable show of teamwork."

Also in the crowd were Sta. Lucia Basketball Team officials Exy Robles, Buddy Encarnado, coach Norman Black and his deputy, Alfrancis Chua, and PSC commissioners Binggoy Montemayor and Cynthia Carrion.

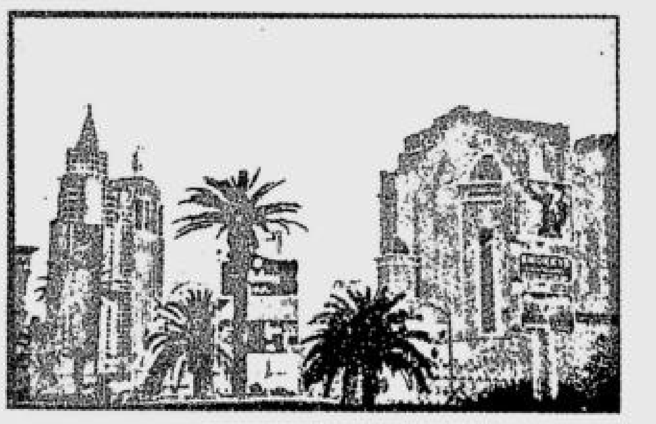
Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, a former PSC commissioner, was also an enthusiastic part of the crowd like ping pong's Vic Valbuena, football's Rene Adad and bowling's Steve Hontiveros.

adidas

adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

ASIAN GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL	COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	7	4	5	16	Myanmar	0	1	0	1
Japan	6	4	2	12	Indonesia	0	0	1	1
South Korea	2	5	4	11	Mongolia	0	0	1	1
Kazakstan	1	0	3	4	Thailand	0	0	1	1
Iran	0	1	1	2	Turkmenistan	0	0	1	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	0	1	Uzbekistan	0	0	1	1



Reflecting on Time | Pedro Almodóvar
En Las Vegas no existe el dia ni la noche.
Pedro Almodóvar. Directed numerous prestigious films and won with "Todo sobre mi madre" an Oscar in 2000 for Best Foreign Film.
Commander Chrono Automatic.
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Sokor XI wins

BUSAN, South Korea—South Korea hammered out a five-goal warning to itsr Asian Games gold medal football rivals here on Monday while China and India set up an intriguing clash in the chase for quarterfinal places.

Korea, still on a high after its thrilling trip to the World Cup semifinals, demolished Oman, 5-2, in Group A to virtually guarantee its place in the last eight.

Defender Cho Sung-Hwan opened the scoring in the 25th minute. *AFP*

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14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

SYNCH SWIMMER Korea's Jang Yoon-kung competes in the women's syncronized swimming solo technical routine yesterday at the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea. Jang placed second in the event. AP

China's Asiad rivals concede

Battle for 2nd on between Korea, Japan

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—The 14th Asian Games has barely started to heat up, but already China is deemed to have a lock on the overall championship it has held since the 1982 New Delhi edition.

The host country and Japan, the two countries considered capable of toppling China, have conceded defeat and are instead concentrated on their battle for second place.

It is easy to see why they have taken a pessimistic stance on ending China's long reign.

Mammoth delegation

Based on the medal projections of their respective National Olympic Committees, the combined targets of South Korea and Japan would just approximate that of China's 150-gold goal here. Despite fielding a mammoth delegation of over a thousand, 770 of them athletes, and competing in all but one (kabaddi) of the 38 events calendared, the Koreans are only gunning for 80 golds.

The Japanese, who have also sent a record 988-member contingent, are training their sights on 70 golds.

China has fielded a 946-strong delegation to vie for honors in 36 events as it bids to bury the memory of its unimpressive stints in South Korea.

In the 1996 Seoul Asiad, the Chinese could only account for 94 golds, barely surpassing the Koreans' 93-gold haul.

Two years later, in the Seoul Olympics, the Chinese garnered only five golds, their worst showing ever in the quadrennial meet.

Now, the Chinese have left nothing to chance. They are aspiring for at least 20 of 43 swimming golds, 15 of 45 in track and field, 25 of 42 in shooting, 9 of 15 in weightlifting and 9 to 13 golds in gymnastics. The rest could come from wushu, cycling, badminton, table tennis and, of course, basketball.

Main concern

Lee Yun-taek, president of the Korean Olympic Committee, said their main concern is to preserve second place. Japanese officials, on the other hand, said they are bent on reclaiming second spot they last held in the Hiroshima Asiad in 1994.

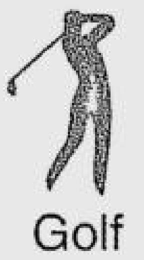
The Koreans have also nudged out the Japanese champions in the Asiad's first seven stagings for second overall in Seoul and in the 1990 Beijing edition.

South Korea is anchoring its bid on native sport taekwondo, where it hopes to take at least 12 of 16 golds staked, boxing, sailing, swimming, fencing, bowling, archery and soft tennis.

Japan's strength emanates from karatedo, which it originated, swimming and track and field.

As China, well, it is a cut above the rest.

RP golfers welcome long practice



BUSAN, South Korea—The highly regarded national golf team, a consistent Asian Games medal machine since 1988, played a practice round at the Asiad Country Club course last Monday, three days before the actual competitions.

The RP parbusters are composed of US-based Ria Quiazon, Heidi Chua, Carmelette Villaroman, Juvic Pagunsan, Angelo Que, Marion Dizon and Jerome Delariarte.

The team will have three straight days of practice provided by the organizers, something that was welcomed by the Filipinos who have been trying in vain to find a golf course since Thursday upon arriving here.

"The courses that are open are for members only," said women's coach Alice Andrada.

Nevertheless, the Nationals are not worried, having paced and measured the rolling par-72 Asiad course and tested the greens during a secret, two-day workout arranged by the Korea Golf Association a week before the departure of the RP delegation.

"Of course, the Koreans have been practically sleeping in the course," National Golf Association of the Philippines executive director Jake Ayson had joked after the Filipinos came home from their quick training trip.

All told, the Philippines has one gold, four silver and five bronze medals since golf stroked its way into the ever-growing Asiad roster of sports in 1986 in Seoul.

Ramon Brobio, who couldn't hit the bigtime as a pro, is the most bemedalled Filipino Asiad golfer with an individual gold and bronze in the men's team in 1986 and a silver in the men's team and a bronze in individual play in 1990.

A team built around Cassius Casas and Danny Zarate nailed a silver in 1994 while Gerald Rosales shone with an individual silver and a team silver in 1998.

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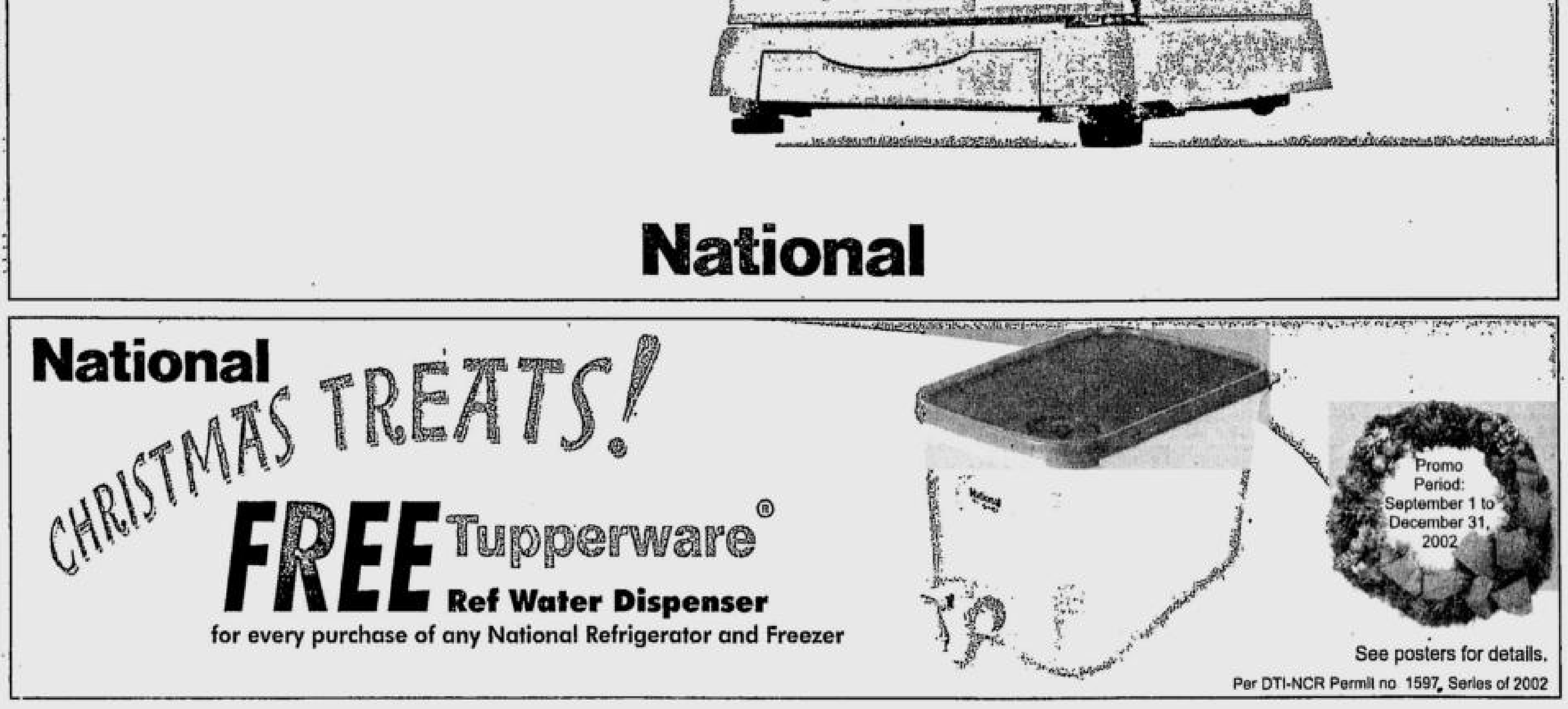
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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ 2 Chinese get life for selling shabu /A31

DEL BIANCO

'Nothing foul in police operation'

By TJ Burgonio and Philip Tubeza

POLICE officials yesterday insisted that kidnap suspect Diosdado Santos was killed in a shootout with agents of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response in Cavite on Sept. 18, debunking new autopsy findings that Santos was a "rubout" victim.

National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said that although he respected the request of the Santos family for an independent autopsy, he is "standing by (his) men," who had said that they shot it out with Santos and two other kidnap suspects.

Santos, along with Rodolfo "Bullet" Patinio, and Eugene Radam, were supposedly killed in a gunbattle with members of a Pacer team in Gen. Trias, Cavite on Sept. 18.

They tested positive for gunpowder residue, an indication that they fired their guns, said Ebdane, who cited crime laboratory results.

"It was a legitimate police operation," Ebdane said. "There's nothing foul about it."

But according to the preliminary autopsy findings of University of the Philippines forensic pathologist Raquel B. Fortun, the muzzle of the gun that killed Santos must have been a few millimeters away from Santos' mouth when the trigger was pulled.

In a news conference yesterday at the UP Manila campus, Fortun told reporters that Santos already had two gunshot wounds in the chest, which were enough to kill him, but somebody still decided to shoot him in the mouth.

"(Was this done) to make sure (Santos) was dead?" Fortun asked. "Is that the (police) standard (operating procedure)?"

"Shouldn't they have checked if he was still alive? What about human rights?"

Fortun said Santos' upper lip must have rested on the muzzle of the gun.

A portion of Santos' lower lip was blown away by the shot. He also lost three lower teeth, she said.

"If it was a distant shot, why was his upper lip not hit?" Fortun also asked.

She said the gunshot in the mouth was the last since it was not that bloody. This shows that he had no blood pressure because he must have

NOTHING/A30

Montero brothers, Vanessa fined

TROY MONTERO

KC MONTERO

By Blanche S. Rivera and Leah Salterio

THE BUREAU of Immigration fined Filipino-American brothers Troy and KC Montero and Vanessa del Bianco P100,000 each for working in the country as entertainers without permit from the government.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, however, agreed to recall the mission order for the arrest of the three celebrities after the Montero brothers and Del Bianco's lawyer presented themselves at the BI office in Intramuros yesterday.

Domingo ordered the lawyers of the Fil-Am actors to submit the necessary documents so that the bureau could issue work permits

MONTERO/A30

Missing chemist shows up with missing shabu

By TJ Burgonio

APPARENTLY fearful of the consequences of his actions, a forensic chemist, suspected of filching about 1.53 kg of shabu from the PNP Crime Laboratory and who had gone into hiding in June, yesterday surfaced and turned in the bulk of his loot.

Insp. Delfin Torregoza surrendered to his superiors at the PNP Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame about 5 a.m. and yielded two plastic bags containing 1.359 kg of shabu, which is 174 grams less than the original loot.

Neither the suspect, who also tested positive for shabu use, nor police officials could explain what happened to the missing 174 grams.

MISSING/A31

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*IMDUR DURULES 30MG TAB	16.50	15.60
*IMDUR DURULES 60MG TAB	26.00	24.75
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*PLENDIL ER TAB 10MG	55.75	53.00
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Ca pantothenate 10mg, vit B2 6mg, vit B6 5mg, vit C 500mg, Fe sulfate (elem Fe 105mg) 525mg. (Liqd) Dexpanthenol 2.5mg, elem Fe 26.25mg, niacinamide 7.5mg, vit B1 1.5mg, vit B 12 6.25mg, vit B2 1.5mg, vit B6, 1.25mg, vit C 125mg		
*IBERET 500 FILMTAB	12.50	11.60
*IBERET 500 LIQ 120ML	226.00	210.00
*IBERET 500 LIQ 60ML	135.00	125.50
*IBERET - FOLIC - 500 TAB	13.25	12.25
Lecithin soya 200mg, selenium 50ug, vit A 7500iu, vit C 250mg, vit E 100iu, Zn 20mg.		
*VIGOR ACE SOFT - GEL CAP	11.00	10.45
Vits A 5000iu, B1 5mg, B2 3mg, B6 1.5mg, B12 5ug, D2 200iu, E iu, nicotinamide 20mg, Ca pantothenate 10mg, dibasic Ca phosphate 100mg, cupric sulfate 2.5mg, Fe, elem (as ferrous sulfate 30mg) 10mg, Mg sulfate 2.5 mg, manganese sulfate 3.6mg, K sulfate 650ug, methionine 5mg, lysine hydrochloride 2.5mg, inositol 5mg, debitterd Brewer's yeast 25mg.		
REVICON FTE TAB	3.55	3.35
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Quarrel at ATO affecting air safety

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE QUARREL of the two bigwigs at the Air Transportation Office (ATO) might affect the safety of air travel in the country.

One of either Transportation Assistant Secretary and ATO chief Adelberto F. Yap or Executive Director Antonio A. Sanchez should be kicked out for the sake of air safety.

Both Yap and Sanchez are presidential appointees. President Macapagal-Arroyo should decide who to replace and who to retain.

* * *

Yap, a retired Air Force major general, wants Sanchez, a former Philippine Airlines pilot, replaced by Licinio R. Puente. Yap and Puente were classmates at the Philippine Air Force Flying School.

Of course, Sanchez is not taking Yap's plan to replace him sitting down, according to my sources at ATO.

Sanchez has become Yap's nemesis, scrutinizing his boss' official acts, especially the ATO chief's travels abroad and decisions concerning money matters, ATO insiders said.

* * *

On the other hand, Yap has intruded into Sanchez's functions at ATO, chief of which is checking on the qualifications and licenses of commercial and private pilots.

Sanchez's memo requiring that only ATO check pilots should give tests to pilots of wide-bodied aircraft was overruled by Yap, sources said.

Sanchez has become a powerless official at ATO because all his memorandums and orders are overruled by Yap.

* * *

An ATO insider said that Yap should not be meddling in Santos' functions as executive director.

In a private firm, Yap's position is equivalent to chairman of the board while Santos is the president and chief executive officer (CEO).

Yap has no business intruding into Santos' job because his is to oversee the smooth operation of the ATO. Santos' job is the day-to-day management of the ATO and the issuance of orders concerning air safety.

Although Yap is a former Air Force pilot, Santos is more competent in supervising air safety, being a former PAL pilot.

* * *

Some ATO subordinate officials and employees sympathetic to Sanchez have given this writer documents allegedly showing that some of Yap's official acts smell fishy.

For example, according to my sources, Yap asked for reimbursement of P84,690 for a supposed plane fare from Manila to Toronto, Canada where he attended a conference last year.

The reimbursement is illegal, my sources said. Yap, they said, did not pay any fare because the plane ticket was given free by Cathay Pacific Airways.

* * *

I was shown the plane ticket that Yap supposedly presented to the ATO accounting department to justify the request for reimbursement.

The printout of P84,690 was shades darker than the other printouts in the Cathay Pacific ticket facsimile.

"Do you see that printout, Mon?" one of the sources said, pointing to a printout that reads: "IDOO PRI 16B/ATO REPS On DUTY/ VALID CX, etc."

* * *

The "OO" in "IDOO" means non-revenue, "PR" public relations and "ATO REPS ON DUTY" means a traveling ATO official.

According to the sources, airline companies normally give ATO officials free tickets when they travel as part of the public relations program of these companies.

"Why should General Yap ask the government for reimbursement for a ticket that he never paid for?" the source said.

* * *

Remember the 18-year-old boy who was featured in this corner last Saturday for complaining that a faggot of a policeman beat him up and touched his private parts?

The boy and his family are being threatened with reprisal by some unidentified cops, apparently comrades of the faggot.

If something happens to John Paul de los Santos or any member of his family, the blame should be placed on the laps of SPO1 Raymundo Yanuario, the alleged "closet queen" cop, and his companion, PO2 Jimmy Margarito.

* * *

For those who have not read last Saturday's column, here's the background:

De los Santos went to the Caloocan City police precinct No. 16 recently to inquire if a friend was detained there. His friend was not, but he ended up being detained in the precinct.

His only fault was that he was wearing an earring. The two cops, Yanuario and Margarito, were having a drinking spree at the time inside the precinct and apparently did not like the sight of a boy wearing an earring.

* * *

Yanuario and Margarito beat up De los Santos and detained him.

Yanuario did the unexpected. He ordered the teenager to strip and masturbate in front of him. He also touched the boy's penis and testicles as he was mauling De los Santos.

When the boy did not obey his order to strip and masturbate, Yanuario beat him up all the more.

The boy was only released after his parents went to the station and bribed the cops P350.

Las Piñas, Parañaque wage their own cleanup drive

THE CITIES of Las Piñas and Parañaque are following the lead of the Metro Manila Development Authority by waging their own clean-up campaign.

After declaring war on litterbugs, Las Piñas Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar this time is targeting undisciplined public and private vehicle drivers and pedestrians who contribute to the traffic mess in the city.

Aguilar warned in a statement that drivers and commuters found violating the city's traffic rules and regulations will be fined from P150 to P2,000, depending on the violations.

The mayor said he ordered City Traffic Division Chief Redrico Maranan to deploy the 113 traffic enforcers and 45 volunteers to help ease the traffic congestion, particularly along the Alabang-Zapote Road, the city's main thoroughfare.

He said priority would be given to "critical" areas, such as from Zapote Road all the way to RFC and Ever Gotesco malls, the Casimiro junction, Moonwalk near Lozada market and the vicinity of SM Southmall.

But he said vehicles with "Friendship Route" stickers issued by the city government can use alternative routes.

He also ordered the demolition of illegal structures such as signs and billboards on sidewalks that put the pedestrians in danger of being hit by speeding vehicles.

The relocation of ambulant and illegal sidewalk vendors to a safer place is also under way, he said.

According to the City Traffic Division, about 100,000 vehicles use the Alabang-Zapote Road daily.

In Parañaque, Mayor Joey Marquez points out that Baclaran is now free of street vendors and other traffic obstacles.

"People might think that I am not doing my job as mayor because of the controversies hurled at me left and right," Marquez said in a statement. "But that's farthest from the truth. Media should instead focus on the good things happening now in Parañaque."

Last month, Marquez ordered all ambulant and street vendors removed from the Roxas Boulevard service road, Redemptorist Road and Quirino Avenue in Baclaran.

The clean-up drive is part of the Baclaran-Redemptorist Area Enhancement Plan in cooperation with the MMDA, the Department of Transportation and Communication and the Traffic Management Group and other government agencies.

Called Project Metro, the clean-up drive aims to showcase Baclaran and other Metro Manila corridors as tourist destinations in the country.

Under the plan, the Parañaque government will construct about 500 uniform stalls similar to those in Bangkok and Hong Kong, also to attract tourists, according to Marquez.

"These stalls will be rented out to the same vendors ejected from the streets of Baclaran," Marquez said in his statement. "So you see, we are not depriving these people of their only means of livelihood. We will actually help them earn more without violating city and traffic rules."

He said the rows of uniforms stalls would occupy two meters of the street pavement along Redemptorist Road and would be enclosed with railings to allow pedestrians the use of sidewalks.

Contingency measures are presently being undertaken to provide alternative sources of livelihood for the displaced vendors in Baclaran until the tourist stalls are in place, Marquez said.

Demolition on PDMB

AT LEAST 259 families were left homeless after the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) yesterday demolished hundreds of shanties clogging a waterway that runs beneath the controversial President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB) in Pasay City.

Backed by heavily armed policemen, the DPWH contingent began destroying shanties at 9:30 am to clean up the murky Libertad Channel, said DPWH consultant Sonny Pumarada.

Pumarada said some of the squatters had volunteered to demolish their shanties after each family received a P15,000 financial assistance from the DPWH.

The squatters also got free hauling and trucking services.

Christian V. Esguerra

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

NUMBERS WHIZ

Former Education Secretary Raul Roco congratulates Diana Joyce Tee, one of the finalists in the 1st MSA Math Quiz for the Math Whiz held at the Glorietta at the Ayala Center in Makati City. Beaming in the background is Merle S. Alferez, owner of the tutorial and review school behind the competition.

METROBRIEFS

Deadly, noisy neighbors

MECHANIC Elmer Magdaluyo, 23, of Barangay Sta. Teresita, Quezon City, wanted to catch some sleep on Sunday so he told his noisy neighbors in Quezon City not to make too much noise. But his neighbors, who were drinking, rushed to him and stabbed him repeatedly, police said. They were identified as Ryan Cabansag, 24, a certain "Poking," and their companions, according to police. Magdaluyo died at the Philippine Orthopedic Center from stab wounds in the body, police said.

Alcuin Papa

Short-changed singer

TRAFFIC aide Leoncio A. Hernandez, 62, was stabbed dead Sunday night after he allegedly short-changed a female singer he had hired for a party. The singer's unidentified manager stabbed Hernandez, of Tondo, Manila, during an argument at a birthday party on Yuseco Street, also in Tondo, after the singer complained about her fee, police said.

Philip C. Tubeza

Old grudge and stones

EDWIN ORLINA, 26, of Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City, is in critical condition after he was allegedly stabbed on Sunday by Danilo Manlangit, 45, also of Bagong Pag-asa, police said. Police reports said Manlangit and Orlina's brother Unyo had a long standing conflict. The stabbing happened after Unyo allegedly threw stones at the Manlangit house. Manlangit then engaged Unyo in a fist fight and was about to attack him with a knife when Orlina arrived and hugged his brother, police said. The suspect stabbed Orlina and fled, police said.

Alcuin Papa

Demolition shooting

QUEZON CITY's PO3 Ismael Estoy and PO2 Paolo Totanes, both of the Central Police District Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit, were shot and seriously injured during a demolition of illegal shanties last week in North Fairview, police said. The demolition also resulted in the arrest of 10 people, including the suspected gunman, Tagarin Ravago, 19, of North Fairview, Novaliches. Also arrested were Danilo Delantes, 24; Crisanto Paderno, 21; Vedardo Ladines, 41; Arce Quino, 14; Dionisio Roman, 33; Elizer dela Reyes, 30; Reynaldo Cumado Jr.; Renato Castro, 38; and Ramil Tauzon, all residents of the area.

Alcuin Papa

QC bus robbery

POLICE arrested 11 alleged members of a holdup gang in Quezon City while they were robbing passengers of a bus last week. The suspects were identified as Eddie Mendoza 29, Junie Forcadilla, 37; Robillo Lacerna, 24; Joel Moya, 24; Joel Asla, 23, Romel Padua, 32; Edwin Sakay, 32; Billy Mendoza, 18; Joseph Conejos, 32; Roberta Candilada, 29; and Aldrin Aldiano, 29, all natives of Leyte and residents of Sitio 1, Batasan Hills, Filinvest. Police said the suspects were arrested on board a MA-FEL bus bound for Fairview. Passengers blocked the bus exits after one robbed passenger shouted for help. Police found on the suspects two cell phones that belonged to Venus Daguis and Omayra Sultan, and a wallet containing P300 owned by Virgilio Camacho.

Alcuin Papa

2 in car theft

CHARGES of car theft, frustrated homicide and theft were filed against Rosauro Ibay, 25, and Michael Bartolo, 21, for the theft last week of the car of Dr. Stephanie Balaoing, police said. Records showed that policemen arrested Ibay and Bartolo a few minutes after they allegedly stole the Nissan Sentra car (TEX 404) of Balaoing, 32, at 12:15 a.m. last Sept. 17. Balaoing had just alighted from her car and was opening the gate of her house when the two suddenly appeared, boarded the car and tried to flee with it, police said. But one of the car's tires exploded, forcing the suspects to flee on foot. Roving barangay watchmen arrested them.

Agnes E. Donato

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 1, 2002
26th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23
Gospel: Lk 9:51-56

As the time drew near when Jesus would be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem. He had sent ahead of him some messengers who entered a Samaritan village to prepare a lodging for him. But the people would not receive him because he was on his way to Jerusalem. Seeing this, James and John, his disciples said, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to reduce them to ashes?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village.

Commentary

This Gospel episode is the turning point of Jesus' life and ministry according to Luke. From this moment on, Jesus is presented as intent to accomplish his mission in Jerusalem. His ministry in his home province of Galilee came to an end. Between Judaea and Galilee lies Samaria, against whose inhabitants—the Samaritans—the Jews had been at odds for more than a couple of centuries. Mutual biases reigned between them, leading even to violent sentiments, as expressed here by the two sons of thunder, James and John. But Jesus had nothing to do with such religious fanaticism. In fact, later on he, a Jew, could present a Samaritan as a model of neighborly charity (cf Lk 10:25-37) to the shock and dismay of his compatriots, especially the Jewish religious leaders.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Montero brothers, Vanessa fined

From page A29

to legalize their jobs in the country.

Del Bianco, a regular of the noon show "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" on ABS-CBN, and Troy, who also appears on TV and movies, were allowed to stay in the country pending the processing of their immigration papers.

But KC may have to leave the country this afternoon if the BI decides to deport him.

Domingo said KC has to leave because he is an "overstaying tourist" and has to reapply in the the United States for a permit to enter the Philippines.

KC, a mainstay of the Sunday variety show "S.O.P." on GMA-7 and an MTV video jockey, was found to have been overstaying in the country with only a tourist visa.

His lawyer is expected to file a motion for reconsideration with the bureau today.

The Monteros admitted in a meeting with Domingo that they have been working in the country without a permit.

Domingo also told Troy and Del Bianco to secure work permits immediately or she would have them arrested.

Immigration Executive Director Roy Almoro said Troy had been fined P100,000 when the BI discovered his precarious status three years ago.

Almoro had recommended the arrest of the three foreign entertainers after they ignored summons to submit documents concerning their petition for recognition.

The three were insisting they are still Filipino citizens because their mothers still held Filipino citizenship at the time the three were born.

'Nothing foul in police operation'

From page A29

been dead or was already dying.

Santos, Radam and Patinio were tagged in the killing of self-styled government spokesperson Baron Cervantes in Las Piñas last year. They had served as lookouts when confessed gunman ex-Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales shot Cervantes from behind, according to the police.

On Sept. 18, the Pacer team raided the suspects' lair after they learned that the three men were also behind the abduction of businessman Jose Penano in Silang, Cavite a couple of days earlier. The victim was released after the payment of P2 million in ransom. The ransom was recovered intact.

Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former anti-narcotics agent who had testified on former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson's alleged links to organized crime groups, had aired suspicions that the three were killed "to silence them."

2 Chinese get life for selling shabu

By Philip Tubeza

A MANILA judge yesterday sentenced two Chinese men to serve two life terms each for trying to sell 20 kilos of shabu in Luneta Park two years ago.

The sentencing came a week after Justice Secretary Hernando Perez's celebrated row with the Chinese ambassador over mainland poachers caught in Philippine waters.

Judge Teresa Soriaso of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 27, found Ping Ching Choi and Zhi Xiao Chen guilty and also ordered each of them to pay P2 million.

The two were caught with 20.6943 kilos of shabu in a buy-bust operation at the Quirino Grandstand on July 27, 2000.

The convicts tried to sell five kilos of shabu to an undercover member of the Narcotics Group.

The remaining 15 kilos were found in Choi's red Honda Civic sedan (WFY-737).

The Chinese men had pleaded not guilty to the charges, adding they were inside Choi's apartment on Sagat Street, Paco, Manila when the buy-bust happened.

But Soriaso dismissed their defense, saying that "denial is self-serving and cannot prevail in the light of the testimony of the principal prosecution witnesses."

The prosecution presented three witnesses during the trial, one of whom was SPO3 Juanito V. Pasamonte, a Narcgroup intelligence agent.

Records showed that Pasamonte and a police informer met Choi at the Palm Plaza Hotel at the corner of Pedro Gil and Adriatico streets in Manila on July 26, 2000.

Pasamonte told Choi he wanted to buy five kilos of shabu, and they later agreed to a price of P400,000 per kilo.

The two then agreed to close the deal at the Quirino Grandstand the following night.

About 10:30 p.m. of July 27, Choi and Chen arrived at the grandstand. The policemen then made the arrests after Choi received the money from Pasamonte.

In her 25-page decision, Soriaso also ordered the confiscation of Choi's Honda Civic to be turned over to the government.

Unified trash scheme starts

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE UNIFIED Approach on Solid Waste Management of the Metro Manila Development will take effect today.

The scheme is expected to prevent garbage from piling up in the streets, according to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

Under the scheme, residents and owners of business establishments are required to place their garbage in front of their homes or establishment on the specified day of collection.

"This way, we could eliminate the mounds of garbage that usually pile up on street corners," Fernando told reporters yesterday.

Garbage collectors will get the trash from the doorsteps of houses and buildings and this will benefit those who live in narrow alleys or out of the way streets, Fernando added.

Also, residents and building owners are required to wrap their trash well to prevent it from littering the streets. If the trash bag breaks when the collector comes, it would be the responsibility of the resident to sweep the litter off the streets.

For areas with a lot of dogs that could rummage through the trash, or areas that are usually flooded, residents are advised to put their trash bags in high places.

MMDA Assistant General Manager for Operations Rogelio Uranza said it would be up to the local government units to decide on the dates and time of the garbage collection so that residents would be advised on when to bring out their trash.

The MMDA also announced that the Oct. 7 trial date of its drop-and-ride project has been postponed for a week. The trial date was moved to Oct. 14.

Under the project, students will have the option to take point-to-point buses from a designated terminal to their schools.

The terminals will be located in several areas in Metro Manila. Fifty-seater buses going to schools such as Ateneo de Manila in Quezon City and La Salle Greenhills will be stationed there.

The fare is P25.

Fernando also announced yesterday that new traffic schemes would be implemented along several busy thoroughfares.

U-turn slots under overpasses would be implemented along C-5 and Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City.

Edsa-Pioneer would also be closed to traffic, said Fernando. Instead, motorists should use Reliance Street.

WASTE TIME
While the Metro Manila Development Authority continues to wrestle with the garbage disposal problem, scavengers like this burdened man continue to live off the Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila.
ERIK ARAZAS

Coddlers face charges

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRISON officials are set to file administrative charges against four Pasay City jail guards accused of coddling policemen accused in the killing of former actress Marissa del Mar's brother in 1999.

Insp. Fermin Enriquez, investigation and intelligence chief of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology-National Capital Region, yesterday said he would file charges of grave misconduct against SJO1 Ronieldo Unasin, SJO1 Floro Esperas, JO3 Robert Serrano, and JO1 Antonio Avila.

If found guilty, the jail officers could either be suspended for six months without pay or dismissed, Avila told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He said he would file the charges within the week as soon as Del Mar (Marissa Magsino in real life) submits a sworn statement.

He said he has also requested ABS-CBN's "Mission X" to provide his office a copy of the video that caught the four jail guards giving special treatment to the alleged killers of Del Mar's brother.

On two separate occasions last Aug. 20 and in early September, the jail guards were supposedly not in uniform when they escorted suspects SPO2 Romeo Isidro and PO1 Ricardo Eusebio to hearings in a Pasig court.

Isidro and Eusebio were not handcuffed and were allowed to use a private vehicle, Del Mar had said complained.

In the most recent incident, jail officers Unasin and Avila and the two policemen allegedly went to a lawyer's house in Mandaluyong and later to a Makati restaurant after a hearing in Pasig.

SPO2 Isidro, PO1 Eusebio, and four other men are facing murder charges for the killing of Del Mar's brother, SPO1 Jaime Magsino, in August 1999.

MMDA stops seminars for erring drivers

By Leila B. Salaverria

SINCE nobody seems to be listening anyway, the Metro Manila Development Authority has stopped conducting seminars for apprehended traffic violators.

Aside from being fined, erring motorists used to be required to attend educational seminars at the MMDA.

According to MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, erring drivers would instead be given informative and easy-to-understand pamphlets on traffic rules and proper driving.

"We have stopped conducting the seminars," Vergel de Dios said yesterday. "As a form of punishment, it's antagonistic, isn't it? The erring driver doesn't listen and gets hotheaded."

He said the MMDA is already producing the pamphlets.

Apprehended motorists are now just paying the required fines for their respective offenses, he said.

The traffic director also said that the abolition of the seminars would curb corruption among MMDA personnel manning the traffic divisions.

He told reporters that one MMDA employee had been caught receiving money in exchange for getting out of the seminar.

"If one has done it, then there may be more who have done the same," Vergel de Dios said.

The MMDA employees who used to conduct the seminars would be deployed as roadside adjudicators since they are knowledgeable in traffic rules, he added.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday that eight adjudicators are ready to be deployed. All in all, the MMDA expects to have 15 traffic adjudicators who "have integrity and are trustworthy," Fernando added.

The adjudicators would be prohibited from catching traffic violators, he said.

Aside from settling disputes between motorists, the adjudicators could also be called to settle disputes between motorists and traffic enforcers.

Fernando said motorists could call the MMDA's 136 hotline to ask that a third party settle traffic-related or towing-related arguments. This way, the activities of "kotong cops" or fly-by-night towing operators would also be curbed, he said.

To prevent crank calls and abuse by the adjudicators, the MMDA would be asking certain questions about the incident before dispatching the adjudicators, he said.

NIDA BLANCA CASE

Prosecutors hoping for the best

By Philip Tubeza

WILL the wheels of justice finally turn for slain actress Nida Blanca?

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the prosecution is hoping for the best in today's preliminary investigation hearing of the case—the last the Department of Justice will hold.

"We hope that by (today), there will be a resolution to file the case in court and so start the wheels of justice ... for Nida," Wycoco said.

The NBI charged Blanca's husband, Rod Lauren Strunk with parricide. Philip Medel Jr., engineer Vicente Polinar and two other persons, including a "lesbian-looking woman," were also charged with murder in the Blanca case.

The NBI also filed charges of obstruction of justice against three security guards of the Atlanta Centre building in San Juan where the actress was found murdered.

Wycoco said if the DOJ panel decides to file the charges in court, arrest warrants will be issued against the accused.

"That is why we hope that the case will be resolved and the charges are filed in court," Wycoco said. "If the court finds probable cause, it can issue a warrant of arrest."

The NBI is particularly concerned with Strunk, who went to the United States in January.

Strunk had promised to return to the country if he is needed in the investigation, but he reneged on that promise after the NBI charged him.

Of the eight suspects, only Medel is in the bureau's custody.

Wycoco said Polinar has hired a lawyer and promised to file a counter-affidavit to disprove the charges against him.

Missing chemist . . .

From page A29

While he returned part of his loot, Torregoza is still facing criminal and administrative charges for infidelity in the custody of evidence, according to Director Lucas Managuelod of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management.

Last week, the suspect's immediate superior, Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, the Crime Laboratory chief, approved a recommendation to dismiss Torregoza for serious neglect of duty and absenteeism.

When asked what could have prompted the suspect to surrender after three months of hiding, the PNP chief, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., said: "It's difficult to hide. Besides, he stole shabu. He would have faced the death penalty had he not surrendered."

Ebdane could not explain why Torregoza stole the shabu. "That's something to be investigated," he said.

Investigation showed that Torregoza made off with the shabu on June 6 when he was supposed to present it as part of the evidence in a case filed against one Josefino Fernandez before the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 13.

During a drug inventory, officials discovered that Torregoza never presented the drug to the court. When summoned, he went into hiding.

Binay hits BFP 'failure'

By Leila B. Salaverria

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday scored the Bureau of Fire Protection for its alleged failure to provide adequate equipment to the city's firefighters.

He said the firefighters' lack of equipment is putting public safety on the line, citing that Makati's 275 firemen were provided only eight bunker coats but not the boots that should come with the bunker coats.

"These shortcomings directly bear on the effectiveness of our firemen to perform their duties," Binay said in a statement. "We are not talking of a simple oversight, since the matter of bunker coats and boots would have serious repercussions if it leads to unnecessary loss of lives and property."

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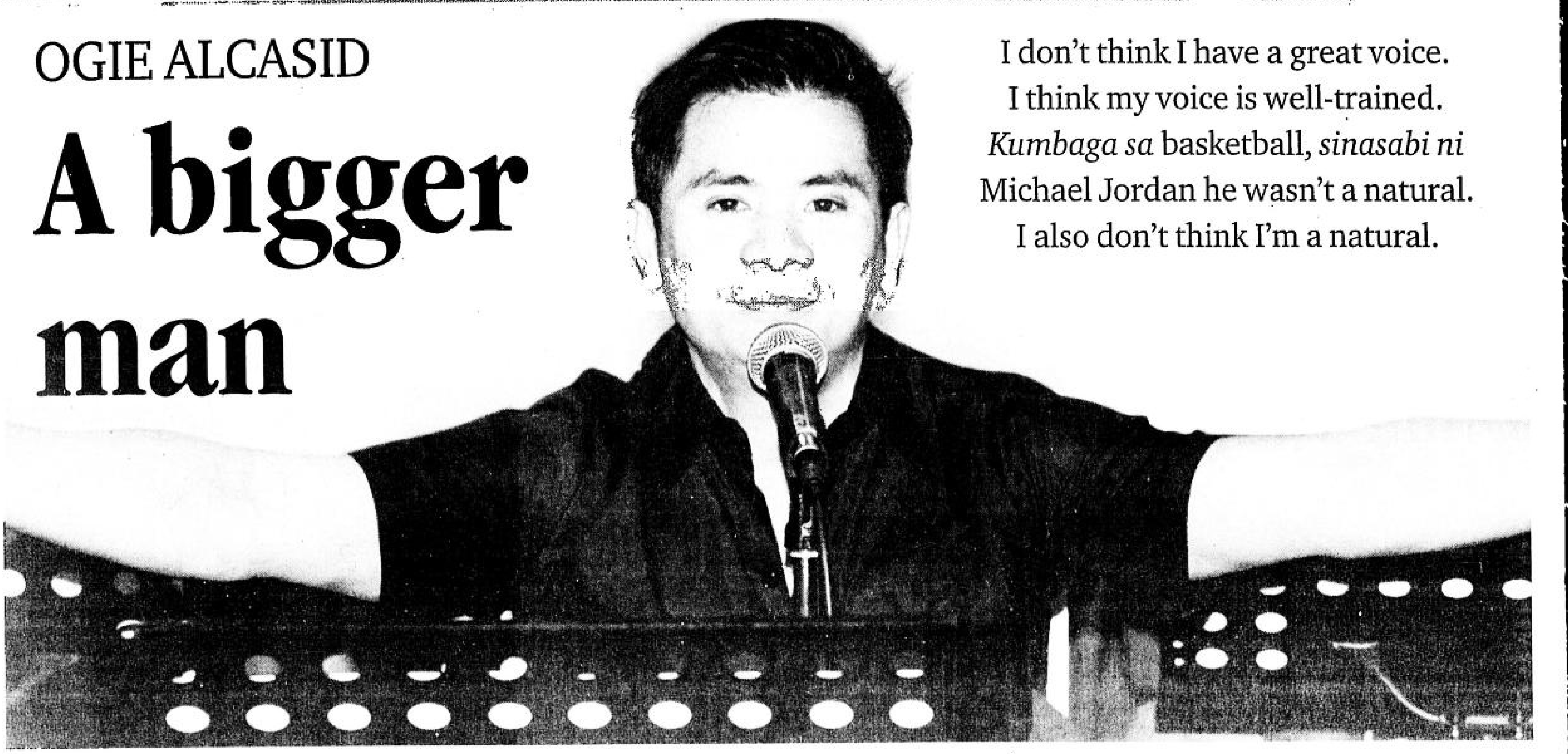

OGIE ALCASID

A bigger man

I don't think I have a great voice.
I think my voice is well-trained.
Kumbaga sa basketball, *sinasabi ni*
Michael Jordan he wasn't a natural.
I also don't think I'm a natural.

WHEN Filipinos like a song very much, they sing it and play it and hum it and listen to it until it is coming out of their ears and pounding . them senseless.

Blame Ogie Alcasid for composing one such very very big favorite, "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?" The syrupy, sweaty, sweet. sad, soothing song became such a huge hit until, in many videoke and sing-along bars, hosts began to ask the audience, and not jokingly, to please stop singing it already! Move on!

Fortunately for Ogie and his followers and the rest of us, the little big man has produced other hits that took people's mind off "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?," although none of his more recent works have become as big a hit.

With Ogie having such a wide influence over the population's imagination, is there any doubt that he can fill up the Araneta Coliseum, still the biggest, most intimidating show venue in town, when he puts on his "OA sa Hits" concert on Oct. 4.

Ogie, by the way, is blaming Rico J. Puno.

Q & A

Why do you seem so languid?

It's been a long day. I've been talking with press people. I met some of them at lunch. Then I had to go to "Star Talk." Then I attended the birthday of Richard's (Gomez) daughter. Then I went to the gym and then I came here.

Where's your daughter Leila?

She's in Australia with her mother (Michele van Eimeren) and little sister (Sarah Kate). I was there for 30 days.

How many more babies do you plan to have?

As many as my wife can make. I'd like to have three or four. I'd like to have a boy.

Do you think you can fill up Araneta Coliseum?

(Turns to Viva staff members) Can I fill up Araneta?

Viva: Of course!

Ogie: They're quite upbeat. They say ticket sales are very good.

When is your new baby coming home?

Maybe mid-November. Depends on the baby's *bakuna*.

Are you going back there? ***Ang mahal naman ng byahe mo?***

Libre eh. *Alam mo kasi may* racket *ako*.

Ah, yes, you've been doing a show in Melbourne.

Nov. 17 is the birthday of my eldest and then the 26th is my wedding anniversary.

How many years have you been married?

Six.

What kind of six years were they?

It only gets better.

How many concerts have you done so far?

One (laughs). I've done Folk Arts, PICC, Onstage and Music Museum. But this is my first time to go solo at the Araneta. You know *naman* Araneta, it's like the barometer.

Are you nervous?

Hindi pa. I'm sort of trying to pace my anxiety. I know it's going to come. I'm trying to take it as an adrenaline rush.

You're a good comedian, a good singer, a good composer. What do you think you are best at?

At drinking tea (laughs). I feel I'm best at writing songs.

How many hits have you done?

I really don't know. Probably many. But I really started as a singer, *eh*.

What was the first song you wrote?

"Peksman," 1988. Octoarts. *Parang nauso kasi noon yung ikaw ang susulat ng sarili mong kanta.*

What are you in one word right now?

Cloud 10. Whatever that means. I don't know. Because prior to my leaving the country, the album "A Better Man" turned platinum. And then when I got there (Australia), the baby came out healthy. *Parang hindi kami pinahirapan ng* baby. We didn't have sleepless nights. Okay *yung* sleeping habits *ng anak namin*.

When I got back here, I heard that the ticket sales are good. Then I won an Awit award for best male performer and best album. It's good. It seems that everything is being prepared for the concert.

How old are you?

Thirty-five. Five before forty.

What has the press been asking you?

Are you frightened? How does it feel to be a new dad?

What was the hardest question to answer?

Wala naman. Actually the questions that I find hard to answer are the ones where I have to compare myself to someone.

But you answer them?

Yeah, in the most democratic way I can. It's hard to compare myself to George Clooney, *'di ba?*

Oooh. Or to Elijah Wood?

Regine (Velasquez) and I were touring the States. I went to a mall to buy a software when I saw him. *Pero hindi ko maalala yung pangalan niya. Sabi ko, kilala ko ito, artista 'to. Hindi siya pinapansin ng tao. Lumapit ako sa kanya.* I said, 'excuse me, is it you? You're Elijah Wood.'

'Yes,' he said. 'You're a great actor!' *Tapos*, I said, 'I don't want to create a commotion but can you sign this for me?' I handed him a "Harry Potter" DVD.

Tiningnan niya, tapos sabi, 'Yeah, sure. But I didn't come out in that movie.' *Hindi ko na napapirma kasi nga sobra na akong napahiya sa ginawa ko.*

What facts about you are most people not aware of?

I used to be a back-up singer for Joan Lorenzana.

I have this really old old T-shirt. *Hindi ko napapansin na gabi-gabi yun ang suot ko. Sabi ng misis ko*, if I see you wearing that shirt again, *malalagot ka sa akin. Tinago niya, hinahanap-hanap ko.*

Tell us about your little businesses?

Bago ako nag-La Salle, Don Bosco Makati *ako*. Grade 2.

Sa Don Bosco *may negosyo ako*. During lunch time, *nagpapa*-rent ako ng komiks. 25 cents hanggang 50.

Ayoko sanang lumipat sa La Salle *kasi mawawala ang negosyo ko. Sayang naman. So sa bahay na lang, nagmamasahe ako*, family members. *Piso, dalawang piso.* I'm the youngest of four children.

Yung tatay ko mahilig mag-remodel *ng bahay . . .*

Anong pangalan ng tatay mo?

Herminio, *ang nanay ko* Herminia. *(Ako)* Herminio Jr.

Anyway, *ang bahay namin palaging nire*-remodel *kaya laging may karpintero. Ang ginawa ko, nagtinda ako ng sigarilyo sa kanila. Kumikita ako. May* notebook *pa ako, nakasulat ang mga benta ko.*

Bakit hindi ka naging businessman?

Dapat yata talaga doon ako eh. Kaya lang si Rico J. Puno *kasi* idol *ko yun nung bata ako eh. Kaya naging* singer *ako.*

Sinong magaling na singer sa inyo ni Rico J?

Siya pa rin. Yung boses niya distinctly his. *Merong gano'n eh, binayayaan talaga ng magandang boses.*

Why, don't you think you have a good voice?

I don't think I have a great voice.

Describe your voice.

I think my voice is well-trained. *Kumbaga sa* basketball, *sinasabi ni* Michael Jordan he wasn't a natural. He had to work really hard, not like Larry Bird. I also don't think I'm a natural. I work hard for power, technique.

Who's a natural for you?

I think Janno (Gibbs). He has a beautiful voice. Rico J, and Martin (Nievera).

What do you think of yourself as a songwriter?

I don't really think I'm a great songwriter. I just think that it's very easy for me to be very passionate with songs. I'm such a sappy person, I cry easily watching these female movies. But I am not ashamed to be in touch with my emotions.

What movies have you cried over?

"Free Willy" (laughs). *Talagang hagulgol.*

You weren't trying to be funny?

No. At sa eroplano, I was watching (animation) "Ice Age." *Naiyak ako do'n sa* part *na ibinalik na yung bata. Nilapitan ako ng* stewardess, *nakakahiya. Kaya lang, gano'n ako eh.*

What else makes you cry?

Songs. Madalas sa "Back-to-back-to-back" portion ng "SOP" *naiiyak ako eh*. During the Mother's Day show, Jaya was singing to her mom, *nakaka*-touch. Janno is also like that. *Mababaw rin ang luha.*

Who are your friends in the business?

Fernando Poe. *Kailangan sikat* (laughs). *Madami.*

Do you think FPJ will run for President?

I don't think so.

Why not?

Hindi niya hilig yata eh.

But will you vote for him?

Yes.

Why?

Ha? Because he seems to be a very honest person and he's got a very large following.

Do you think FPJ will make a good leader of the country?

Yes. But I think he doesn't have the know-how. He didn't study political science or other similar courses. He's no economist either. He's none of that sort. I think all he has is an honest heart.

But people are afraid that he might do an Erap if he becomes President.

Well, we're going to have to take that risk.

But if you're given a chance to advice him on whether he should run or not, what would you say to him?

I'll discourage him. It's good to have a leader who has a large following. *Maraming puwedeng mangyaring* positive *doon, 'di ba?* But I'd rather that he not run. *Masyadong madaming* problems *sa* country.

What's the country's biggest problem?

Poverty. I think there's something wrong with us culturally. I also think there's so many of us in so little space. Are you going to ask me who my other choice is?

Who?

I like Juan Flavier. But I don't think he's going to run. He would be a great leader because he's short.

Why, what's with short people?

Oh, we're simply magnificent (laughs).

Do you still get bad comments about your height now that you're rich and famous?

Ha? Dati parang laging may pitawa about me. Now *hindi na*.

Do you ever get affected when people tease you about your height?

No. I like being short *eh*. Because you're short, you tend to have a lot of character. You tend to work harder on your personality.

What are you insecure about?

I never show it. *Siguro* only my wife sees it. I'm very insecure about my songs. People ask me to write, *parang* I have to come up with a hit all the time.

What do you feel about "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang"?

It's very bizarre. Up to this day, I find it mind-boggling how people react to it. I've been to karaoke bars, *parang ang haba ng pila ng gustong kumanta no'n.*

This is the ultimate, *ikinuwento sa akin*: Macho dancers dance to the song.

Alam mo honestly I don't know what makes a hit. I wouldn't know if a song would be a hit. I know I should not think about it really and just let it . . .

How did you write "Bakit" ? Why?

I was very young then. I wasn't married yet. Of course not (laughter).

Autobiographical?

It is. To tell you honestly, I'm not even sure for whom I wrote it. *Hindi ko na maalala.* I had a girlfriend at that time.

And you don't remember who?

No, because for the longest time I had one girl, the supposedly love of my life.

Manilyn (Reynes)?

No! Not from show business. Then I met someone else.

Manilyn?

No!

So "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?" was about the non-show biz girl?

Yes. Now she's married.

***Okay lang na tawagin ka na* Barry Manilow?**

Okay lang, idol ko 'yun eh. Si Tom Cruise *din. Hindi ko masyadong* type *si* Elvis Presley, *maka*-Frank Sinatra *ako*.

What kind of concert is this ("OA sa Hits")?

Walang kuwenta. Just hits from beginning to end.

What do you want to do that you haven't done yet?

I've done this before but I wasn't quite successful with it. I've done a concert with an orchestra, 1991, PICC. We didn't fill up the venue but I have so many nice pieces that are just there. Fully orchestrated, I want to do that.

How long have you been in the business?

Fourteen years. Jan. 15, my first TV appearance was on "Martin and Pops Together" at St. Brigette School. Sila lang ang may variety show *noon eh*.

What kinds of songs can you not sing?

Nahihirapan akong mag-rap. *Gusto ko mag*-Eminem *pero hindi ko kaya. Gusto ko rin mag*-Elvis, *pero hindi ko makuha yung* attitude.

When you write songs, what do you do first, the melody or the lyrics?

Sabay.

What about "Ikaw Sana?"

Ah, matindi 'yun. It's a more specific "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?" You should listen to it.

Bakit matindi?

Kasi nung sinulat ko yun, sabi ko, pano ko pa kaya pipigain yung "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?"?

Ganito ang takbo ng lyrics *n'un eh. "Sa buhay natin mayroong isang mamahalin, sasambahin. Sa buhay natin mayroong isang bukod tangi sa lahat at iibigin ng tapat."*

Kapag pinakinggan mo yun, you'll say, *ay* love song. But here's the twist, *"ngunit sa 'di sinasadyang pagkakataon, at para bang ika'y nilalaro ng panahon, may ibang makikilala. At sa unang pagkikita, may tunay na pagibig na madarama."*

How different is your next album from "A Better Man?"

Love songs *pa rin*. I'm trying to think of other topics. *Halimbawa, nahuli mo yung* boyfriend *mo* with your best friend. *Maganda kasi yung may pait* at conflict.

Your wife is not the jealous type?

She is, but she's not possessive. She trusts me, I guess.

Why?

I guess it's because I've proven how loyal I am to her.

So, do you get indecent proposals from women?

What do you mean? Like go to bed or something? No. I guess it's because people won't take me seriously.

But do you get propositions?

Yeah. *Kapag bading siyempre* I play along. *Nakakatawa at masaya eh.*

Magaling kayong dalawa

A BIGGER/ A33

Rehearsing with back-up singers.

Iligan group conquers Europe

By Jeffrey P. Maningo and Joselle R. Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ILIGAN CITY—The leading cultural group here came home with a lot of bacon on Sept. 17 after more than two months of performing abroad.

The Integrated Performing Arts Guild (IPAG) of the Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) had represented the Philippines in cultural festivals in Monaco, France, Belgium and Spain. They performed with cultural groups from countries such as Scotland, Ireland, Chechnya, Yugoslavia, Guatemala and China.

But it was the Mindanao dance troupe, composed of 11 dancers,three musicians and two technical staff members, that earned the admiration of the spectators and the judges and bagged several grand prizes.

Artistic director Stephen Fernandez said IPAG's performance in Monaco alone, which was attended by Prince Albert, was critically acclaimed.

Fernandez said the group presented Mindanao dances, including the *singkil, kamalong and kalilang* using the *agong* and the *kulintang,* which all enchanted the audience.

Fernandez said going to Monaco to perform was not easy for the group as, back in July, they had to pass a series of screening by Dr. Stephen Zullig, Monaco's honorary consul to the Philippines.

One of the group's major prizes came during the 13th Cultural Festival in France, organized by the Association Culturelle d'Echanges Internationaux and lasting until Aug. 25.

In Belgium, IPAG earned more critical acclade. The female dancers even became darlings of the press, according to Fernandez.

In Spain, after giving a solo performance in Madrid, the group joined the Murcia festival, which involved at least 13 countries.

The 25-year-old IPAG started touring Europe in 1996. Its most recent European tour was part of its World Tour 2002 program.

Other winners are coming from Mindanao. In Davao City, the grand prize winner in the recent Mindanao Indigenous Dance Festival Competition (MIDF) Kadayawan 2002 competition was chosen by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) to represent the country in the Langkawi International Festival of the Arts in Malaysia next month.

The Kathara Dance Theater Collective, a Davao-based theater group founded by Elenita Dumlao in 1986, will perform its winning piece, "Si Tulalang og ang Higanteng si Agasi" in the festival.

WINNING PIECE. Davao's Kathara performs "Si Tulalang og ang Higanteng si Agasi."

Two TV surveys reflect young viewers' preferences

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

THE SOUTHEAST Asian Foundation for Children's Television is conducting a series of symposia on TV Literacy around the country, during which it surveys the TV viewing habits of the students in the audience. While the survey results aren't conclusive, they may be indicative of certain relevant trends and young viewers' evolving preferences.

Two of these surveys can also be compared because one represents young viewers in Metro Manila (it was conducted during a symposium in Quezon City), and the other reflects young people's viewing preferences in the provinces (Baguio City):

The Baguio City respondents were from 14 to 20 years old. Of the 113 youths who answered the survey questions, 92 percent had one TV set at home; the rest had more than one.

They viewed TV for an average of seven hours a day. The TV program types they preferred to watch were: 1. Documentaries, 2. News and public affair shows, 3. Animated programs, 4. Movies, 5. MTV, 6. Variety shows, and 7. Situation comedies.

Favorite programs: "TV Patrol" (22 votes), "Game Ka Na Ba?" (21), "Slam Dunk" (20), "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" (18), MTV (15), HBO movies (15), "My Myx" (13), and Discovery and National Geographic Channel programs (11 votes).

Ten years ago, they watched TV an average of 4.3 hours a day. Since they view television an average of seven hours today, that's an increase of 2.7 hours daily. Their younger siblings watch TV an average of five hours each day.

The Quezon City survey: Of the total of 89 respondents, 13 percent said they had one TV set at home, three percent said they had none, and the rest had more than one set in their homes. The respondents, whose ages ranged from 13 to 16 years, said that, on average, they watched TV for four hours a day.

Preferred program types: 1. Variety shows, 2. News and public affairs, 3. Animated productions, 4. MTV, 5. Documentaries, 6. Movies, and 7. Situation comedies.

Favorite programs: "Slam Dunk" (20 votes), MTV (16), "Friends/"Ally McBeal" (15), "Seventh Heaven" (14), "Knowledge Power" (12), "Gilmore Girls"/"Roswell" (11 votes), and 7. "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" (10).

Comparisons: Young Baguio City residents watched TV for seven hours a day, while Quezon City youths viewed television for four hours a day. Why the disparity? There's less to do in the province, is one explanation.

But the average viewing hours each day, be they four or seven, are similarly substantial. The question is, *what* do they like to view?

The answer to the question about preferred program types are initially heartening—in fact, rather surprisingly so, especially in Baguio City survey. Imagine, the young respondents' top choice was documentaries, followed by news and public affairs? If they weren't fudging their responses, this means that most TV programming people are mistaken in their belief that young viewers prefer escapist shows like teen dramas, sitcoms and variety-musical programs.

But this upbeat view is negated by the Quezon City survey, which lists variety shows as the most preferred program type. Still, all is not lost, because it is followed by news and public affairs.

All told, therefore, these responses suggest that TV programmers and advertisers should reassess young viewers' preferences, and adjust their offerings accordingly. Perhaps young viewers aren't as frivolous as conventional wisdom presumes?

On the two lists of favorite programs, the common elements are "Slam Dunk," MTV and some sitcoms. The question is, how do these lists of favorite shows jibe with the same two sets of respondents' preferred program types? If they favor news, public affairs and documentaries, how come programs along these lines don't figure prominently on their lists of favorite shows?

In any case, these surveys of young people's viewing preferences are useful because they show the important role that TV plays in their lives, be they in the city or in the province.

We hope that more people will see the need to help the youth to become more discriminating in their viewing choices, and to teach parents and guardians to regulate their children and wards' exposure to television.

Wives, ex-lovers and first-time mothers

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

IT SEEMED like an extended birthday celebration for me with all the parties I attended last week with my favorite escort Jonn Santillan (whom show biz friends are prodding to revive his short-lived TV/movie career. He did a movie and some TV ads before he turned politico).

We went to the painting exhibit of Ces Drilon's mild-mannered hubby Rock at Aresi on Tomas Morato. It was a retrospective show cum wine party. On display were some of Rock's favorite works from the collection of highly-placed art connoisseurs.

Rock came in crutches. So I teased Ces, "What did you do to Rock?" We both laughed like crazy. Ces does not mind turning naughty for a change when we're together. I always kid her that I serve to break the seriousness of her world as broadcast journalist.

She shot back, "You ask him what he did to me! Actually the truth is he gets so nervous before every exhibit and that's why he accidentally tripped on the stairs last night."

Rock's works are definitely one of a kind, especially the blue one I spotted which had various phallic shapes. Ces volunteered: "It's either he was over- or undersexed when he painted that."

I teased Rock, "How does it feel to be married to someone so famous as Ces?"

He was in a jovial mood so he said, "I know that a lot of guys have a crush on her but that does not worry me."

Patricia's 'PJ'

LAST Friday, Jonn and I joined Patricia Javier in her album launching at the newest hang-out this cool side of town, Forum at the Podium, owned by my dear friends Jessica Rodriguez, Jacob Fernandez and Paolo Bediones.

It was a jampacked affair. And quite an emotional one, too, for Pat who got teary-eyed as she belied nasty rumors circulating that a doctor friend of hers who passed away days before her album launch was her "sugar daddy."

Pat pleaded: "Let's make him rest in peace. He was a family friend. When I was down and out, he operated on my mom for free. If not for his kindness my mom would not be around anymore, so I beg of you to stop spreading malicious talk."

She also seemed misty-eyed as her ex-boyfriend, ramp model Marc Nelson (who hosted the show along with promising new star Cheri who's a dead ringer for Vivian Velez), hugged and kissed her on stage after the program.

It was heartwarming to see the ex-lovers still so warm with each other.

For old times' sake, he hosted the show gratis et amore. All he got for services rendered was a free copy of Pat's CD.

Speaking of the album, from EMI Philippines, it boasts of a powerhouse production team that includes former True Faith members Ferdie Marquez and Francis Guevarra.

Despite the presence of several dance tracks, the album is not your typical run-of-the-mill pop. Track 1 and 2 contains behind-the-scenes video clips exposing Patricia's sassy side and, hold your breath, the exclusive director's cut of the music video "Siya Ba ang Dahilan?"

The other tracks on "PJ" are "Poging Suplado," "Hoy, Mr. Guapo," "Dahan-Dahan," "Baby I'm Yours," "Huwag Mo Akong Lisanin," "Higpit ng Yakap," "Pangarap Kaya," "Baka Lasing Ka Lang ," and a song Pat herself composed, "Minsan."

"PJ" comes with a mini-poster of the goddess in an array of mouth-watering poses.

Judging from her performance at the launch, Patricia undoubtedly took seriously the voice lessons she had under jazz icon Kevynn Lettau when she flew to Hollywood a few months back.

It's been a long hard way for her. Patricia is living proof that all dreams have their day if we try, try and never tire. Hats off to you, Pat (and I'm sure your male fans want you to take something else off)!

'Timeless Beauties'

HAD a light and breezy afternoon in Karen Davila's get-together at Discovery Suites. It was a party thrown by Pond's in celebration of her being chosen one of nine "Timeless Beauties" to be featured in Summit's three magazines.

Karen's issue will be out this month. The nine Pond's beauties come from various fields of interest.

Spotted at Karen's party were Christina Gonzales-Romualdez, Riki Kwek, Mons Romulo-Tantoco, Kim Atienza and his lovely wife, my friend of perpetual help Boy Abunda, RJ Ledesma, among others.

Karen shed off her newscaster image as she played doting mom to her adorable son David. He's one of the few babies I've seen who is all-smiles and laughter most of the time. The proud mama beamed, "He's still wide awake now even when it's almost 6 p.m. He's been up since the affair started at 2 p.m."

Over and above Karen's many achievements and awards, I must say her being an ideal first-time mom makes the Pond's tribute a well-deserved one.

Personal

GRAZIE to my "crush ng bayan" friend Chinna Jocson, a host in E!Philippines shows, for coming to my party. Dingdong Dantes (her whatchamacallit friend) was supposed to join her but he was in Bicol.

Here's to our continued partnership in crime, girl!

Belated happy birthday to my cool friend Nico Valencia, who I must say is a sure win when he runs for congressman in Mindoro, their family's *baluarte.*

A bigger man

From page A32

magpatawa ni Michael V sa "Bubble Gang."

Si Michael V *kasi*, complete comedian *yan eh.*

What lyrics that you wrote do you like best?

"Ikaw sana ang aking yakap-yakap, ang iyong kamay ang laging hawak-hawak, at hindi kanya." Parang in not so many words, you've already said your piece.

How did you win Michelle?

Ewan ko dun. Kasi yun unang tingin pa lang niya sa akin para akong si Brad Pitt *eh.* "What a man (laughs)!"

Who was attracted first to whom?

I think it was I.

How did you get to be chosen as a host?

ABS-CBN will be airing Miss Universe then. They needed a comedian for a segment so they asked me. I had a sitcom with ABS-CBN, "Mana-mana."

So how did you court her?

Kasi sa Manila Hotel, where they are staying, I gave all the ladies cassette tapes of my album, "A Step Ahead" *nandoon yung* "Mahal Kita Walang Iba." *Tapos para sa kanya*, CD. *Siya lang yung iba*, I guess she noticed that.

Bakit siya ang nagustuhan mo of all the beauty contestant?

Siya yung katabi ko sa bus. She was so friendly to me. When we were in Dakak (a Zamboanga del Norte resort), *kumukuha kami ng* food sa buffet. *Bigla niyang sinabi*, 'Manolo, are you not going to sit beside me?' She calls me Manolo because that's the name of my character. *Sabi ko, 'aba may gusto talaga sa akin ito!'*

Eto yung clincher. One time *sabi nya sa akin* I can call her in her room. *Eh bawal* so I sent her a message, "The operator said I can't call you." *Aba, inaway yung* operator. May gusto *talaga ang hitad!*

Feeling *ko naman hindi na kami magkikita*, so *sumulat ako ng* letter. "It's great knowing you. And I want you to know even if you didn't win Miss Universe, for me you're the winner."

I remembered a movie of (the late) Chiquito and Miss Finland Johanna Raunio where Chiquito played a fisherman and Johanna a mermaid. *Sabi ko, bagay sa amin yun ah. Kinausap ko si* Michelle. "Even if you don't win, would you want to do a movie with me?" She said, "Sure!"

Why did you make that offer? Did you already have the backing of a producer?

Wala pa. Third day of shooting *namin*, on *na kami.*

She was such a baby then. One look at her and I knew I didn't make a mistake and I knew she would be this way, that she'd be a great mom. Everything just fell into place.

Was it a big dream or part of your plans to marry a foreigner?

No. Not in my wildest dreams. I'm sure she also didn't plan to marry me.

Her parents at first did not like you. How did the two of you cope with that?

Alam mo, palagay ko kasalanan ko din yun eh. I had problems with my emotions. *Hindi nila ako kilala. Kailangan kasi talagang makuha mo yung* approval *ng* parents.

You mean you didn't try?

Papaano, eh nandito ako sa Philippines? You have to understand that she's an only child, and she's so close to them.

Pero ngayon, everything's great with my in-laws.

Is your being funny the reason why you won Michelle?

I don't think so because she was funnier. I think *nabaitan lang siya.*

You don't consider yourself a comedian?

No. I like having fun. I'm kinda naughty. I've always been very shy in grade school and in high school. I wasn't even the clown of the class. I was the nerd. I was the president of my class. In grade 7, I was the president of the student council. The shortest president ever.

How old is Michelle?

Thirty. When we got married, she was 24. I met her when she was 22.

Why do you concentrate on love songs? Aren't you going to write songs about something else?

I have other songs. In fact, I have a praise song.

You did have a novelty song, right? "Itongkantangtokaytsongkaytsang?"

Yes. It's *kalokohan* (laughs).

You think not being controversial is better?

I'd rather be this way.

What was the worst thing said about you?

Actually, I'm glad that there was nothing said about me that was bad.

Ay, there was a negative review of my hosting "Family Feud." OA (over acting) *daw ako sa pagiging* host. I don't think so. Whoever wrote that, I don't like him or her.

What if a music review said something bad about your song "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?"

I'll say "What?" It's a welcome remark *kasi* I've never heard of anyone who doesn't like that song. It's either they like it or they don't care about it. But no one ever said that they hate the song.

What part if your life would you want to change?

My twenties. I was really big. I didn't take care of myself. *Kasi naman ngayon lang nagpapayatan ang mga tao, nagiging* fitness-conscious.

What are you most vain about, aside from your looks?

I'm always conscious of my body. I'm kinda stocky so I watch what I eat. I don't eat fatty foods and I try to go the gym regularly.

Given the chance, would you change any part of your body?

Yes. My nose. I want it to be very *matangos* then I'd be very *guwapo. Kasi* now I'm just appealing, *eh* (laughs).

Also I want to change my legs because I'm short. My torso is almost the same as Richard Gomez's torso, only my legs are very short.

Louie C. Camino, Leah Salterio, Marinel R. Cruz

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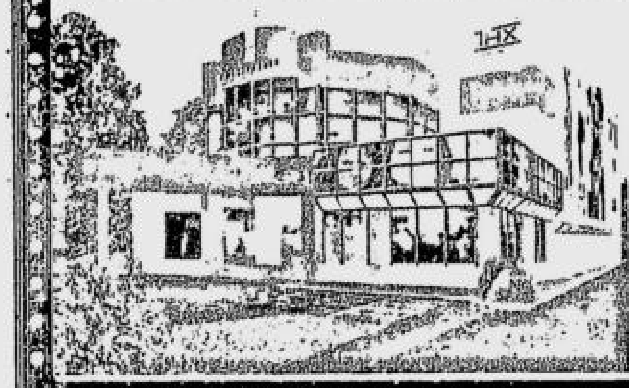

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9 SPY KIDS 2
10 VOODOO
11 SIMONE
12 KAPAG ANG PALAY...

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 VOODOO
4 ENOUGH
5 VAN WILDER
6 K-19
7 JOLOGS
8 IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE
9 ROAD TO PERDITION
10 SPY KIDS 2
11 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
12 REVELATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 REVELATION
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
4 VAN WILDER
5 ENOUGH
6 ROAD TO PERDITION
7 K-19
8 SPY KIDS 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 VOODOO
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ENOUGH
5 VAN WILDER
6 TUKAAN
7 SPY KIDS 2
8 K-19
9 REIGN OF FIRE
10 KAPAG ANG PALAY...

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 SIGNS
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 DIVINE SECRETS OF...
5 ROAD TO PERDITION
6 HIGH RISK
7 AUSTIN POWERS
8 K-19

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 TUKAAN
2 CLOSED
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 AUSTIN POWERS
5 DIVINE SECRETS OF...
6 REIGN OF FIRE
7 CLOSED
8 HIGH RISK

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 K-19
2 VAN WILDER
3 REIGN OF FIRE
4 ENOUGH
5 DIVINE SECRETS OF...
6 SPY KIDS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 SPY KIDS 2
3 K-19
4 ENOUGH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 SPY KIDS 2
2 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
3 K-19
4 ENOUGH

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 AUSTIN POWERS
2 DIVINE SECRETS OF ...
3 K-19
4 DERAILED
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 REIGN OF FIRE

SM BICUTAN
1
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3
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SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
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4 NEW
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633-8976

SPY KIDS 2
11:30 FS/11:45 MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

K-19: THE WIDOWMAKER
11:30 FS/12:00 MF/2:45/5:30/8:15/
10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:25 END

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1 THX ENOUGH
11:10MF 1:45 4:20 6:55 9:30LMF 11:33END
2 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
3 VAN WILDER
4 REIGN OF FIRE
5 SPY KIDS2
6 ENOUGH
7 BOURNE IDENTITY
8 KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL
9 SIMONE
10 ROAD TO PERDITION

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Ermita 536 -7809- 12
1 SPY KIDS 2
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 ENOUGH
7 VAN WILDER

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 VOODOO
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 VAN WILDER
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 ENOUGH
6 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
7 ROAD TO PERDITION
8 SIMONE

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
3 VAN WILDER
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 ENOUGH
6 ROAD TO PERDITION
7 VOODOO
8 REVELATION

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 SPY KIDS 2
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4 ENOUGH
5 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
6 REVELATION

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 SPY KIDS 2
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 DERAILED
4 HIGH RISK
5 AUSTIN POWER 3
6 BAKAT

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
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2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 HIGH RISK
4 DIVINE SECRETS...
5 AUTIN POWER 3
6 TUKAAN

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5318 / 5270
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2 VAN WILDER
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
5 ENOUGH
6 ENOUGH

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ROAD TO PERDITION

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KC Montero spearheads basketball for a cause

MTV VJ and TV host KC Montero recently accepted the role as project director and image model of "Celebrity Hoops 2002" as his first official project for The Child's World Foundation, Inc. (TCWFI) of which he is an honorary board member.

Slated Oct. 27, 1 p.m. at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City, the event aims to raise funds for the foundation's scholarship program for a lot of indigent children with special learning needs.

"Celebrity Hoops" will bring together an impressive line-up of actors, singers and commercial models who will show off their hardcourt talents in the main event.

Halftime entertainment will be sponsored by Legit Entertainment + Media and will feature young hip-hop artists D-Coy, Aikee and Indyo and the Gee Girls of the noontime show "Magandang Tanghali Bayan."

There will also be door prize raffles, food booths, a celebrity bazaar, autograph signing and courtside games where ticket holders may play against their favorite stars.

Some of the celebrities who have confirmed their participation in the event are Troy Montero , Paolo Bediones, Hans Montenegro , Dingdong Dantes, Gabby Eigenmann, Miko Palanca, Dingdong Avanzado, James Blanco, Wendell Ramos, Antonio Aquitana, Jake Roxas, Carlo Munoz, Jay Manalo, Zoren Legaspi, Rico Blanco, Calvin Millado, Carlos Morales, Erwin Tulfo, Victor Neri, JM Rodriguez, The Power Boys and members of the boy band 604.

For more details and information, log on to http://the-childsworld.tripod.com.

MONTERO

An affair

...

From page A36

and many burdensome should've-could've-would've thoughts that bond them to the audience.

Bittersweet end

Both characters have a strength that Kar-wai has bestowed to truly draw in the viewers as more than mere witnesses. We understand the emptiness they're experiencing and accept why they eventually choose the most convenient, least messy way out.

There isn't any exploration of animosity towards the cheaters, and rightly so. Even when Mr. Chow and Mrs. Chan lean to that direction themselves, we're spared from any obligatory mainstream confrontations and head-splitting verbal abuse.

In typical indie film fashion, it ends in a bittersweet way and leaves one at a loss, for at least a few seconds, whether to nod or shake one's head.

But you'll definitely nod and take it in, since both the travel and the destination are memorable experiences that the filmmaker carefully envisioned and crafted.

It definitely made me watch for the Star Movies Mandarin schedule, because if I'm not mistaken, Kar-wai's earlier works, "Happy Together" and "Chunking Express," were shown on that channel before.

"Very rewarding" is such an understatement. "In The Mood For Love" is not your average, sappy love story. See this gorgeous film with the one you love, or the one you're with.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SECRET FANTASY / GALING GALING MO BABES
ODEON	K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
ODEON-2	JASON X / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MURDER BY NUMBERS / DOG SOLDIERS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR-2	TUKAAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SPY KIDS - 2
B	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ENOUGH
CINEMA-2	CINE EUROPA 5
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-6	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-8	VOODOO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	K19:WIDOWMAKER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-12	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-14	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-15	REVELATION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	SIMONE
CINEMA 2	ORANGE COUNTY (WED) SPIRIT (SAT)
CINEMA 3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA 4	BOURNE IDENTITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ROAD TO PERDITION P13 11:50,2:20,4:50, 7:20,9:50	K-9: THE WIDOWMAKER P13 1:00,4:00, 7:00,10:00	SPY KIDS 2 P13 12:00,2:15,4:30, 6:45,9:00
ENOUGH P13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:20	SIMONE P13 11:50,2:10,4:30, 6:50,9:10	SPY KIDS 2 P13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00

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P 13

CINEMA 2
ENOUGH
11:05, 1:35, 4:05, 6:35, 9:10
P 13

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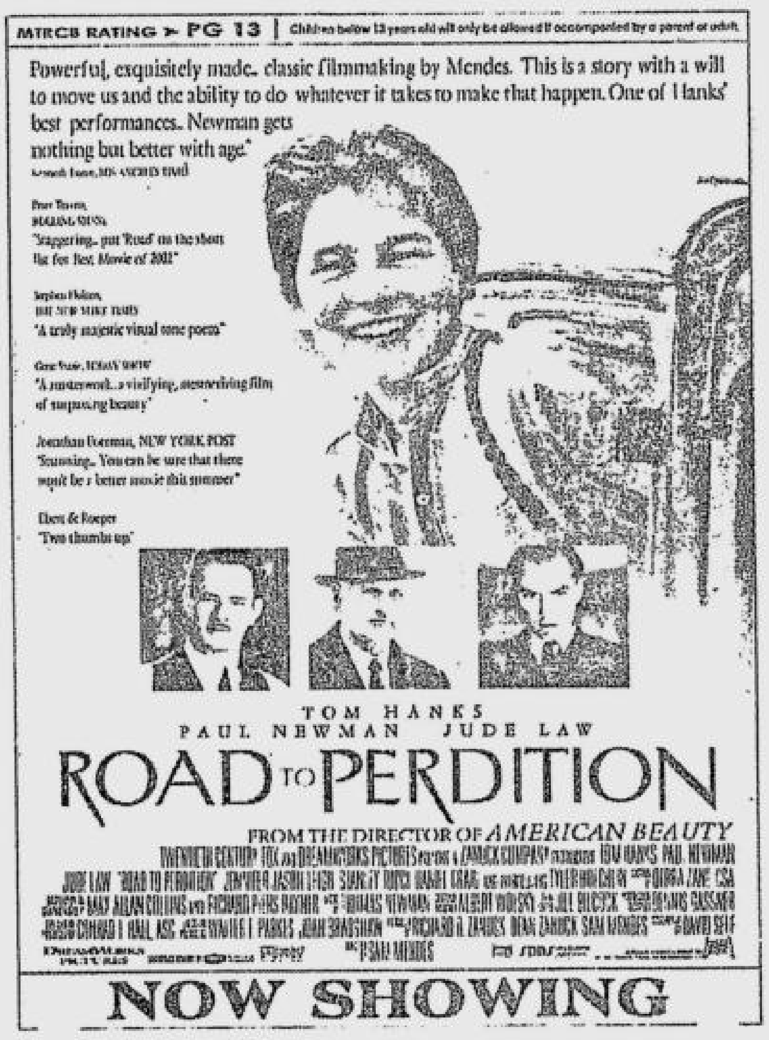

"Powerful, exquisitely made.. classic filmmaking by Mendes. This is a story with a will to move us and the ability to do whatever it takes to make that happen. One of Hanks' best performances.. Newman gets nothing but better with age."
Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE
"Staggering.. put 'Road' on the short list for Best Movie of 2002"

Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES
"A truly majestic visual tone poem"

Gene Shalit, TODAY SHOW
"A masterwork...a vivifying, mesmerizing film of surpassing beauty"

Jonathan Foreman, NEW YORK POST
"Stunning.. You can be sure that there won't be a better movie this summer"

Ebert & Roeper
"Two thumbs up"

TOM HANKS
PAUL NEWMAN JUDE LAW
ROAD TO PERDITION
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *AMERICAN BEAUTY*
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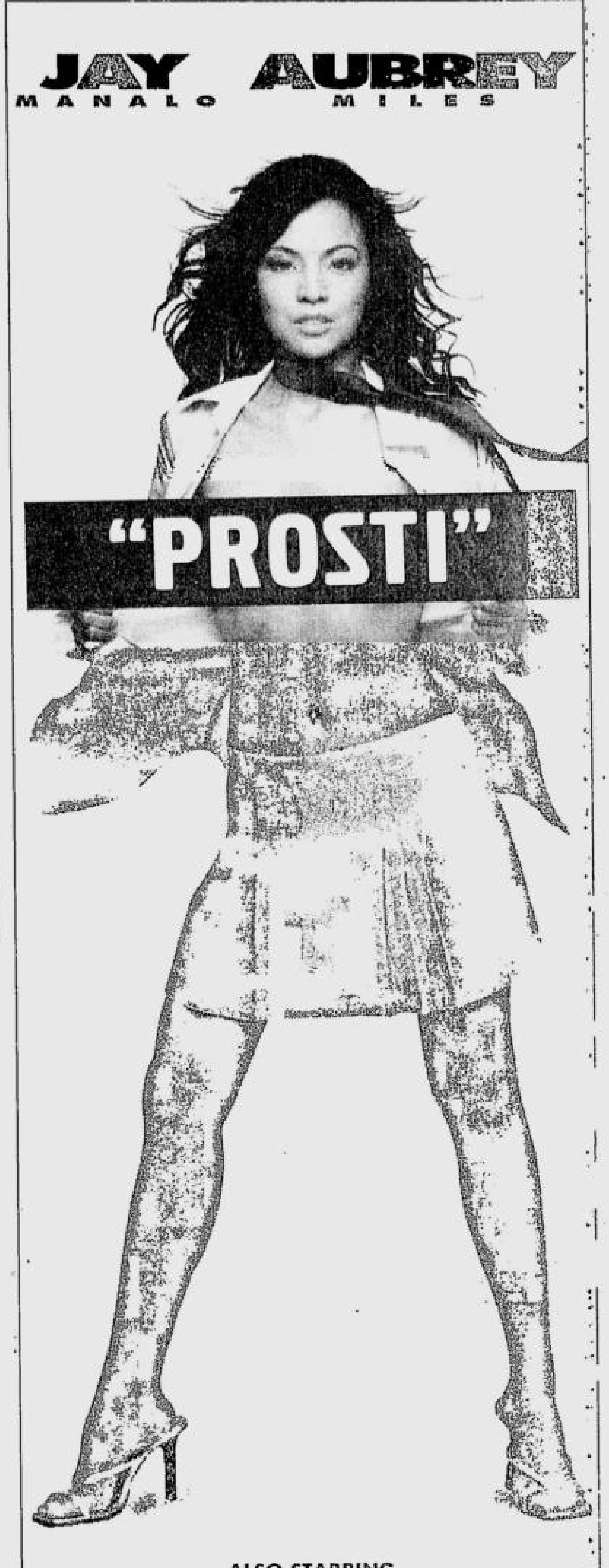

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Cannes Prix du Technique for Editing, Cinematography & Prod. Design
Directed by Wong Kar Wai
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"A JARRING THRILLER"
LOPEZ HOLDS THE SCREEN IN A STAR PERFORMANCE."
Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES
"...SUSPENSEFUL..."
Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
JENNIFER LOPEZ
ENOUGH

From fugitive to avenger!

J. Lo strikes back in 'ENOUGH'

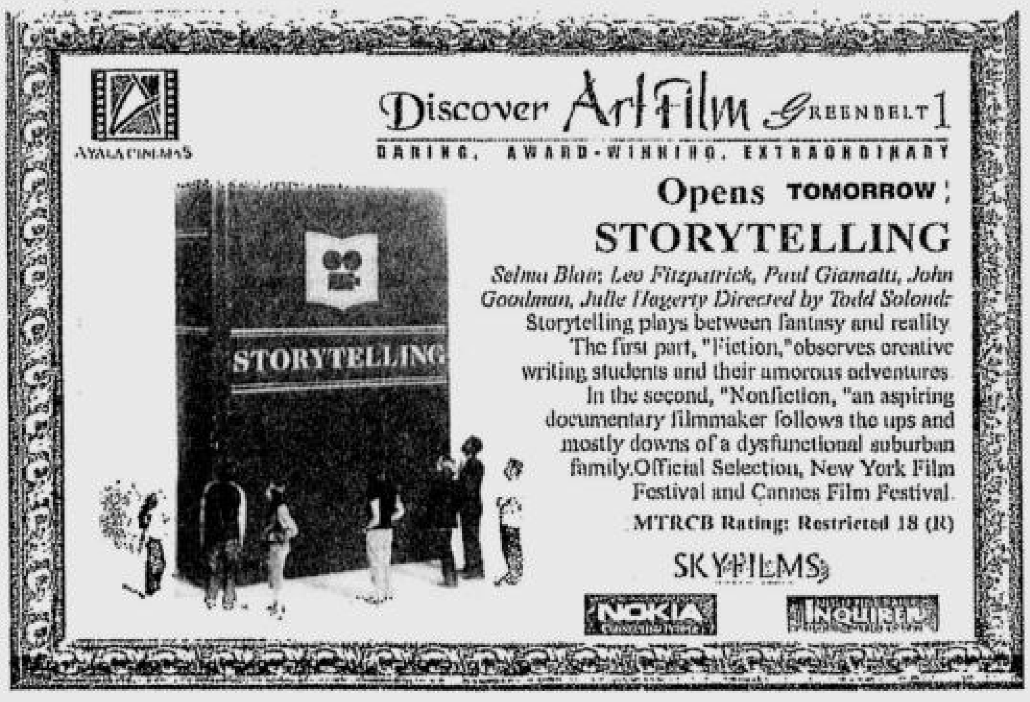
Slim (JENNIFER LOPEZ) is working hard as a waitress when she is swept off her feet by Mitch (BILLY CAMPBELL), a handsome, rich businessman. Convinced she's found her Prince Charming, Slim marries Mitch in a lavish wedding, and settles with him in a fabulous dream home, where they are soon blessed with a lovely daughter, Gracie (TESSA ALLEN).

But the dream turns into a nightmare when Mitch becomes unfaithful, and starts abusing her physically and emotionally. He expects her to accept his beating and cheating. "I'm the man," Slim's husband declares. "I work and bring home the money, so I make the rules."

Slim has had enough. With her friend Ginny's (JULIETTE LEWIS) help, she escapes with Gracie. Pursued by an increasingly dangerous husband, she prepares to fight back with all her might.

AN ENTERTAINING, MUST-SEE THRILLER!

Parents strongly cautioned. Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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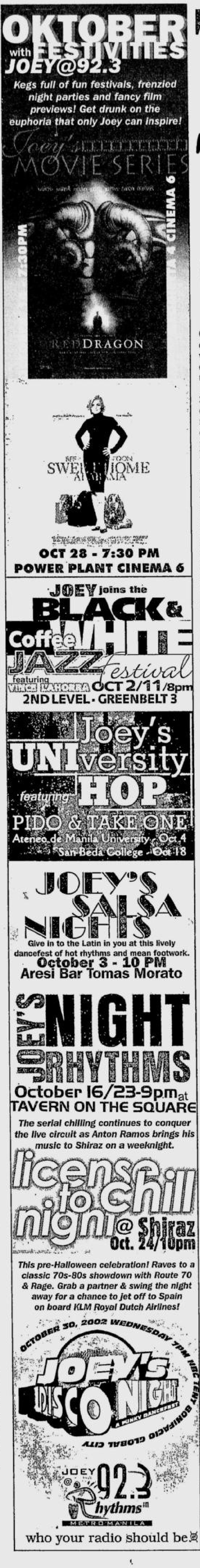
AYALA CINEMAS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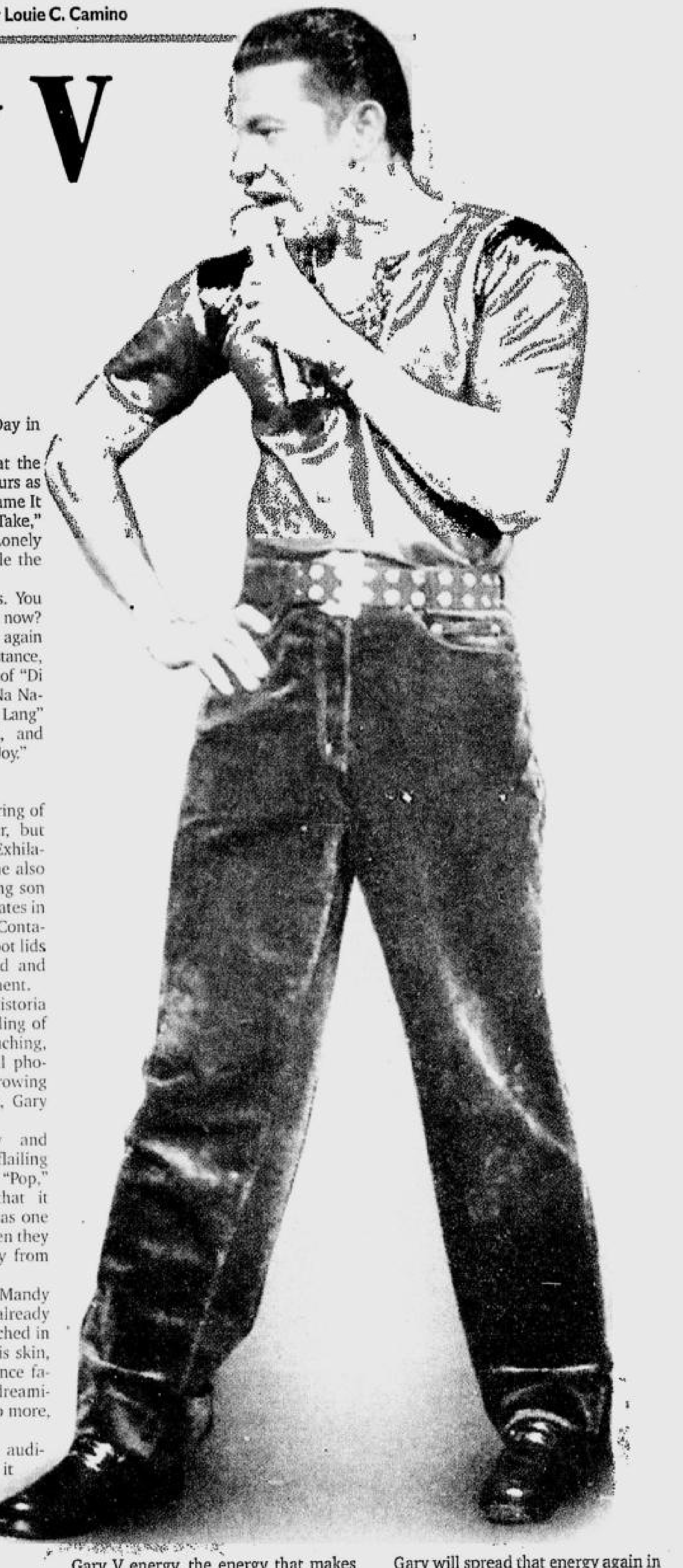
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

The Gary V energy



GARY VALENCIANO, it turns out, doesn't know how to discriminate, whether his critics agree or not. And his critics are dwindling in number faster than Gary V can sing "Hataw Na!"

Whether he sings only two songs or 30 in one show, it apparently makes no difference to him. Each song gets the full Gary V treatment, which means each becomes a display full of life, movement, bounce, and more than one kind of spirit.

Gary V proved this when he sang only two songs at the "Mega Event" at the Araneta Coliseum last August, a duet with Sharon Cuneta and a trio with her and Martin Nievera. The mere mention of his name, like that of Martin's, was enough spark to set off an explosion of screams and howls of welcome and joy in the jampacked Big Dome. Even more deafening was the thunder of the audience clamoring for more after he had done his two short, sweet numbers.

Lean and mean

Gary, the lean, mean, singing, dancing machine, did it again at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati City last Friday, in the second of a three-night series called "Gary V Hits Onstage." That night, he made old and recent hits sound like brand-new all over again. And with Gary singing them, they sounded more affecting than the original, even his own songs.

His always spirited physical performance and his singing—which is finer, and more powerful and more passionate like his body now —could do that to songs.

In every Gary show, you go into the theater expecting singing and dancing by one of the country's most enthralling performers, and you come away getting more than that. You leave shaken and stunned. Gary could do that to you.

He certainly shook up and stunned his audience Friday, right from the opening number, Phil Collin's "Sussudio" from the '80s, on a stage minimally made up to look like a warehouse. The artist would later say his show was proof of what his group could do with what limited means they had. The means might have been limited, but the end certainly was boundless, like Gary's energy.

Through the decades

That energy brimmed and flowed and overflowed as he sang hits, from "Celebration," Motown, James Taylor and Carly Simon of the '70s, to the '80s, and to his own songs.

He sang songs from his "wish list," songs he wished he had written and sung, and you would wish he had, too: Earth, Wind and Fire, George Benson's "In Your Eyes," Chicago's "Will You Still Love Me," "Fly Away," Christopher Cross' "Sailing," Stevie Wonder's "Overjoyed," Michael Jackson's "One Day in Your Life."

And you would wish, too, that the night would go on to the wee hours as he did more, especially "Don't Blame It on That Girl," "Every Breath You Take," "Sweet Dreams," "Owner of a Lonely Heart," "Everybody Wants to Rule the World."

And, of course, his own songs. You think you know them by heart by now? You must listen to him sing them again now. Then you would hear, for instance, a new persistence in the passion of "Di Na Natuto," a more playful "Eto Na Naman," a more teasing "Di Bale na Lang" which Gary himself rearranged, and surely a new rapture in "Shout for Joy."

Show-stoppers

The show was an unbroken string of one show-stopper after another, but some were brighter than others. Exhilarating was "Hataw Na!" which he also rearranged, featuring his strutting son Gabriel with the kid's two classmates in a "wholesome" group called Contagious, with the inventive use of pot lids and newspapers being stretched and pulled as percussion accompaniment.

Mushy and moving was his "Historia de un Amor" duet with a recording of his mother, accompanied by a touching, amusing video of clips and still photographs of her and him as a growing child. The video, it turned out, Gary himself put together.

Thrilling again was Gary and Gabriel's wild, arms-and-legs-flailing encore number with N'sync's "Pop," which was also stirring in that it showed father and son moving as one and so closely together even when they were jerking and pushing away from each other on stage.

By the last encore number, Mandy Moore's "Only Hope," Gary was already sitting on the proscenium, drenched in sweat, his clothes clinging to his skin, but it was not out of performance fatigue but more out of a certain dreaminess. He obviously wanted to do more, but so much time had gone by.

By this time, too, it was the audience that was exhausted, for it had joined him in a long, foot-stomping, hand-clapping, dancing standing ovation. Gary's performance could do that to people, too.

Excellent men

Gary's performance will always be compared to Martin's, which will always be unfair to both artists. Still, one is a man of many words and few movements, while the other is a man of many motions but only a few words. Guess who's who. Both are exceedingly excellent artists.

But one man alone will have the Gary V energy, the energy that makes him dance and sing and jump and soar and twist and turn for more than two hours and have only two costume changes and not show any sign of tiredness except maybe the sweat, but what mortal will not perspire after all that? The energy that shoots through his music and his voice and then zaps his audience and leaves them shaken and stunned. The energy, finally, that leaves his audience satisfied but not spent.

Gary will spread that energy again in smaller shows soon. He performs inspirational concerts on Oct. 4 at the UECP Church in Binondo, Manila and on Oct. 5 at the Faith Fellowship in Quezon City, both with the Manoeuvers, and under Mon Faustino's musical direction. And then he is featured at the Mandarin's Captain's Bar in "Crossover Presents" on Oct. 10.

May Gary Valenciano's energy increase.

Louie C. Camino

'IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE'

An affair to remember

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

RARE are love stories on film that can capture the poetry of unrequited passion with pulsating intensity and realism.

This is one of those rare ones. The gifted filmmaker Wong Kar-wai penned and helmed "In The Mood For Love," an efficacious look—nay, an experience—that dares the audience to not care about the two betrayed spouses.

Two couples, seemingly by accident, become neighbors in Hong Kong in the early Sixties. The two characters are only known by their surnames, Mr. Chow (Tony Leung) and Mrs. Chan (Maggie Cheung), at least by the audience. The brewing troubles in their respective paradises aren't very apparent.There's growing indifference between the spouses of both marriages caused by unaddressed complications, or so it seems. Mr. Chow's wife and Mrs. Chan's husband have an affair, which has been going on for quite some time, even before hunches were even entertained.

The clear storytelling captures the surreptitious developments between the victims of infidelity. Mrs. Chan and Mr. Chow begin a hesitant friendship with their common fascination for martial arts serials. The tension carefully grows in every scene where they accidentally bump into each other in the building they live in.

Every polite greeting in the cramped, faintly lit staircase elicits a hidden spark between the two new friends, a spark that is so subtle and appropriately guarded.

The audience is ingeniously barred from seeing the cheating spouses. We only see their backs, or hear their voices during conversations. This is a clever arrangement that somehow doesn't make us less judgmental of their treachery, even when we don't see their smug, lying faces.

The well-worded subtitles are direct to the point and don't muddle any plot detail.

The film is beautifully shot. The unconsummated relationship of the "martyrs" paint a very lyrical and stylish chaos that characterizes every scene. From the billowing cigarette smoke to the pained reflections of the characters in mirrors, the visuals further strengthen the very laid-back reverie-like approach to the story.

The colors are mainly found in Mrs. Chan 's dresses, on the wind-blown curtains or the tasty-looking food. Other than these, the mostly drab and dim environments spring to life with Leung's and Cheung's precious anguish.

Getting even

The scenes are complimented by the use of admirable cinematography, as well as the artful use of perspective with visible vanishing points.

Bathed in masterfully-placed light, the actors shimmer in perfection, with their era-trendy bouffant and pomaded hairdos. It's not impossible for these two lead characters to acknowledge a mutual forbidden attraction.

Mr. Chow and Mrs. Chan face the quandary of getting even, or simply letting things be. This attraction isn't without hindrances, as the pair keeps getting held back by obvious feelings of guilt, gossip, and a meddling lecture by the nice landlady.

There's an element of under-emphasis that works favorably. We never get the impression that Mrs. Chan, or Mr. Chow for that matter, will break into whiny melodrama. And when certain discoveries and decisions are made, no showy awkwardness takes place.

For all the nonchalance that these two experience, there's an accompanying foreboding heaviness. Every time a character smiles, there's a weariness

AN AFFAIR/ A35

JENNIFER Lopez plays Slim in "Enough."

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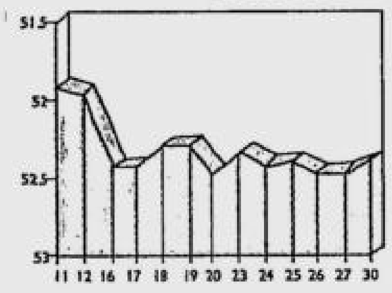
INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.40= $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 1, 2002

¥ 121.79= $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 1, 2002

GOLD: $322.30-322.80
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 1,2002

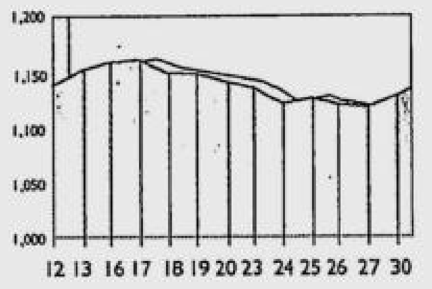
STOCK MARKET

Bargain hunting lifts market

STOCKS edged slightly higher yesterday, lifted by bargain hunting in selected blue chips, but volumes remained thin as external uncertainties kept many players sidelined, traders said.

The main index closed up 9.42 points, or 0.84 percent, at 1,129.34 points.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Value turnover improved to P309.51 million from P198.07 million on Friday.

"The gains were really due to just a handful of large cap stocks with the rest mostly sideways ... it's nothing to really crow about," AsiaSec Equities research head Oliver Plana said.

Nervousness about a possible attack on Iraq and its impact on oil prices and the global economy was continuing to keep many investors sidelined, he said.

Traders said some investors were taking advantage of the market's recent sell-down to accumulate fundamentally sound counters.

Without an improvement in the external environment and some positive local corporate news, the market was likely to remain trapped in a narrow range, traders said. The main index was seen supported at 1,080 points with 1,150-1,160 points likely to provide a solid ceiling for now, he said.

Reuters

S&P assigns 'B' rating to RCBC

SINGAPORE—Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said yesterday that it had assigned its single-'B' long-term and 'B' short-term local currency counter-party credit ratings to Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) of the Philippines.

The outlook is stable.

"The ratings on RCBC reflect the bank's stable funding profile and its market position as the fifth largest private domestic commercial bank in the Philippines, commanding about 6 percent of the system's loans and deposits. This position, however, is counterbalanced by its weak asset quality and the current difficult operating environment. Positively, however, the bank has completed a rights issue for P2 billion that has helped to restore capitalization and will allow RCBC to better deal with a potential rise in problem loans," said Nancy Koh, associate director at Standard & Poor's Financial Services Group.

Reuters

GSIS earns P20 billion

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) earned P20 billion in net operating revenues for the first eight months of the year. This reaffirms GSIS' status as one of the most financially stable government corporations in the country.

The GSIS obtained a 10.54-percent growth in investment earnings at P9.708 billion as of Aug. 31 from P8.782 billion during the same period last year. The pension fund's revenue levels have been on the rise despite hefty increases in disbursements for members' benefits.

From January to June this year, the GSIS has already disbursed P18.099 billion to 368,221 salary loan borrowers; and P4.242 billion to 398,901 Policy Loan borrowers. It has also released P10.971 billion for retirement and other social security claims for the same period. Moreover, the GSIS has vastly increased and improved virtually all the benefits granted to its members.

CURRENCIES

Sept. 26, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.018849	1.000000	52.4470
Japan	Yen	0.008317	0.008163	0.4281
United Kingdom	Pound	1.590321	1.560900	81.8645
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130639	0.128222	6.7249
Switzerland	Franc	0.681596	0.668986	35.0863
Canada	Dollar	0.645617	0.633673	33.2342
Singapore	Dollar	0.573031	0.562430	29.4978
Australia	Dollar	0.554144	0.543892	28.5255
Bahrain	Dinar	2.702660	2.652661	139.1241
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271658	0.266632	13.9840
Brunei	Dollar	0.571423	0.560852	29.4150
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023465	0.023031	1.2079
UAE	Dirham	0.277404	0.272272	14.2798
Korea	Won	0.000836	0.000821	0.0431
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.981500	51.4767
Argentina	Real	0.276861	0.271739	14.2519
Brazil	Real	0.264156	0.259269	13.5979
Denmark	Kroner	0.134413	0.131926	6.9191
India	Rupee	0.021094	0.020704	1.0859
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268154	0.263193	13.8037
Mexico	New Peso	0.100064	0.098213	5.1510
New Zealand	Dollar	0.479166	0.470301	24.6659
Norway	Kroner	0.136376	0.133853	7.0202
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017268	0.016949	0.8889
South Africa	Rand	0.096631	0.094843	4.9742
Sweden	Kroner	0.109908	0.000821	0.0431
Syria	Pound	0.023050	0.022624	1.1866
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029260	0.028719	1.5062
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000694	0.000681	0.0357

SMC emerges as buyer of Bonifacio property

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Abigail L. Ho

CASH-RICH San Miguel Corp., through its real estate development arm San Miguel Philippine Properties Inc., has surfaced as another potential bidder for Metro Pacific Corp.'s holdings in the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City.

This developed amid talks that the First Pacific Group of Hong Kong is now considering disposing of its interests in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and MPC/Bonifacio Land Corp. as separate blocks, after the exclusive right of taipan John Gokongwei to buy First Pacific's stakes in those firms lapsed yesterday.

A top-level source who requested anonymity said SMC had tied up with Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco whose Bank of Commerce was likely to take part in bankrolling the multimillion dollar bid.

Cojuangco, a nephew of SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, is bent on thwarting the bid of Gokongwei to take over PLDT with his all-or-nothing deal (which includes the Fort Bonifacio stake) with First Pacific Co. Ltd., MPC's Hong Kong-based parent. The source could not verify whether SMC's interest was limited only to BLC or it was also interested in bidding for PLDT.

The source said the SMC-Cojuangco bid, cobbled together by Cojuangco and San Miguel Corp. vice chair Ramon Ang, offered to take up the $109-million loan owed by MPC to First Pacific which was backed by a 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Co., which partly owns Global City. MPC's failure to pay the loan to Larouge BV (a First Pacific subsidiary) triggered First Pacific's plan to sell out its stake in Fort Bonifacio/BLC and PLDT.

The source said SMPPI had placed the value of the Fort Bonifacio property at P50,000 per square meter, equivalent to a 50-percent premium over MPC's purchase price of P33,000 and substantially higher than the P20,000 offer of the Ayala-Unilab group.

The source said SMPPI had insisted that the transaction be carried out as straight land sale because it wanted to take over the Fort Bonifacio property sans the development restrictions imposed by MPC and its partner Bases Conversion Development Authority under the Global City blueprint.

On the reported plan to unbundle First Pacific's holdings in PLDT and BLC, a highly placed source said the move was the most logical step for the Hong Kong-based company to take. "PLDT people now feel confident that the company will no longer be sold to a competitor," he said.

"Talking to two separate prospective partners can be easier than talking to a single prospective partner for both deals (PLDT and BLC)," he added.

He said the MOA between First Pacific and the Gokongweis lumped the two deals together, "so potential partner should want both businesses. However, some groups want only the PLDT stake while the others want only the BLC stake. Partners can change and investment levels can be reasonable if unbundled."

He explained that the Ayalas, for example, could be interested in acquiring First Pacific's 50.4-percent stake in BLC but it could not buy into PLDT as they also own phone firm Globe Telecom Inc., a competitor of PLDT and its subsidiary Smart Communications Inc.

"With the two businesses taken as separate deals, interested parties need not worry about getting into a business that they did not want to get into in the first place," he said.

He said First Pacific could even opt to just sell its stake in BLC and retain PLDT or it could still sell both companies but to non-rival firms of PLDT.

The Gokongwei group, for its part, said it was not about to give up the fight.

In a telephone interview yesterday, the Gokongwei empire heir-apparent Lance Gokongwei said it was "just the exclusivity period expiring." He, however, declined to comment

SMC/B2

Gov't eyes $500-M bond float

By Clarissa Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is preparing to issue very soon a $500-million five- or 10-year global bonds and reopen a five-year euro bond facility to raise another $200 million.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said that the government would do a one-week evaluation of the debt proposals from investment banks that were submitted on or before the road show last week.

Edeza and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. briefed investors in Hong Kong, London, Amsterdam and Milan during a no-deal road show last week on the developments in the Philippine economy. They also clarified issues concerning the government budget deficit.

"We are assessing the market's response to our no-deal road show. We will decide whether we have to do it now or not do it at all. If we do decide to do it now, our first options will be a long-term global bond and the reopening of the five-year euro bond facility," Edeza told reporters.

The treasurer said that the government was considering proposals for a five- or 10-year global bonds to raise $500 million ahead of next year's financing requirement of $2.3 billion.

GOV'T/B2

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Inflation seen hitting 3.06%

THE INFLATION rate in September was expected to have edged up to 3.06 percent year-on-year from August's 2.9 percent, driven largely by higher fuel prices, a poll of 10 economists showed.

Food and beverage indices may have also edged up for the month as low increases in food prices seen earlier this year may have bottomed out, some economists said.

Growing fears of a war in Iraq saw crude oil prices spike sharply higher in the month with the Dubai crude closing at $28.13 to the barrel on Sept. 24, its highest mark in nearly two years.

The higher crude costs saw local refiners hike their petroleum and cooking gas prices in September.

"It's largely because of the series of oil price hikes," said Banco Santander research head Joel Mendoza who forecast a 3.1-percent rise for September inflation.

The September data is due to be released on Oct. 4.

The government forecast for 2002 is for inflation to range at 4.5-5.5 percent.

The central bank said it saw the inflation rate remaining close to the August level, with prices expected to be tame for the rest of the year.

Mendoza noted that prospects for further oil price rises and the weak local currency left the economy vulnerable to further inflationary pressure.

"The crude oil prices and the weaker peso may probably hit us (more) in the first quarter next year though it still depends (on external developments)," he said.

A recent report by US investment house, Lehman Brothers, estimated that Brent crude oil, the world benchmark, was likely to average around $30 a barrel for the next nine months, eating into the region's current account surpluses and weakening economic growth.

Food prices, which have been broadly stable this year, may have also edged up, economists said, pointing to the low base effect, though the generally clement weather would limit any uptick.

"I'm looking at food and beverage tobacco (to rise slightly), because its probably still coming from a low base," Mendoza said.

The expected onset of El Niño in the final quarter, however, would exert strong upward pressure on food prices in the coming months. Analysts also noted that prices typically came under pressure in the final quarter, exacerbated by the traditional pre-Christmas holiday spending.

The weather phenomenon is blamed for a severe drought in Asia in 1997-98.

"They say the peak of El Niño will be the fourth quarter but I think there might be a carry over to the early months of next year," ATR Kim Eng Securities economist Luz Lorenzo said.

Reuters

Stink or swim

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AT long last, after more than 10 long years, we now have a leader who dares to go against the country's economic policy mafia.

This cute administration of Gloriaetta is reviewing our tariff policy.

Devised by a clique of "economists," it was the standard economic line of four Presidents already.

Truly, in all four administrations since we returned to democracy, economic policy never changed.

We got more of the same—the so-called economic liberalization.

That had nothing to do with the Liberal Party of Gloriaetta, however, and economic liberalization only meant we had to do away with a lot of rules.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank actually imposed the bright idea on us. We had no choice but to take it, simply because we owed them big time.

Thinking that the IMF and World Bank were infallible, a small clique of "economists," who came from a single school, fed the idea to administration after administration.

In the past decade of the '90s, therefore, while we had four Presidents, economic policy was as stagnant as my income.

* * *

AS part of economic liberalization, anyway, we had to open up our markets to more foreign goods. This went by the name "trade liberalization" under the WTO.

But that small clique of "economists" had a better idea.

If trade lib is good under the WTO, doing it several steps further than what the WTO prescribed must be heaven on earth.

So under our own version of trade lib, as a national economic policy, we have to cut tariff on imports even lower and faster than all the other countries in the world.

In the street language of our barangay, such a policy is simply known as *pasiklab*. You know—a big show off. Sometimes perverts also call it masochism.

Doing so, according to the theory of our beloved economic policy mafia, would give the local industries tough competition. The thinking should apply to all industries.

Thus, all the companies which employ all the workers here, must either sink or swim. Those which can swim can thus compete with the rest of the world.

The way it looks today to most business groups, nevertheless, most of our industries are not just sinking. They are even being buried way down under the ocean floor.

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY, no President of ours gave a peepsqueak of a thought about those industries which would sink—except Gloriaetta.

Although tagged as just a laundrywoman by her political enemies, Gloriaetta actually got a doctorate in Economics from that same school where the mafia came from.

She is only expected to think the same way they do, as if they are all in the payroll of some foreign funded consultancies, or they are angling for high paying jobs in the ADB.

As the mafia fell in love with their *pasiklab* policy on tariff, so did our government. Love is blind, I know, but so are bats.

Luckily, anyway, despite having once been a classroom economist herself, Gloriaetta is not stupid to just ignore the difference between theory and hard reality.

For the reality of the *pasiklab* policy on tariff is, it's a shotgun approach. It's as if we want all our industries to die in the flood of imports which are actually dumped here.

Dumping, while hard to prove, is not a rare complaint by local businesses which are trying desperately to swim. It stinks. They say that dumping only benefits a small group of traders who mostly have short names.

* * *

THAT'S why Gloriaetta wants a review of our tariff policy, which was the same thing that the economic policy mafia pushed for, as its members took turns running the Neda.

The theory says it is cheaper to import. One day, we will just wake up, and everybody here is an importer. We will not make anything anymore. Except babies!

Actually, the National Economic and Development Authority, or Neda, will do the review ordered by Gloriaetta on the tariff policy.

Of course a lot of groups welcomed her decision. Even former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, who thinks the policy is not applicable to all industries.

Frankly, I'm not sure if I'm excited about the Neda as reviewer of the policy which its own mafia espoused.

Sure, the Neda wears a halo over its head. It has this reputation as a home for the aged ... *este*, professional economists.

But look, as I said, four Presidents believed in that *pasiklab* tariff policy. Thing is, certain Presidents also believed in things like the IPP and the Piatco contracts.

All those policies went through Neda. How they passed the Neda with flying colors, only to become a burden on us, the ignorant public, remains the theme of my nightmares.

* * *

A COUPLE of months ago, if you remember, headlines screamed about a TRO, stopping the LTO from licensing vehicles which came into the country through the Subic freeport.

Those were mostly second hand trucks, vans and SUVs from Japan, which were converted from right to left-hand drive in Subic.

Actually, the case was filed by the Philippine Automotive Association, or the PAA, which is made up of brand new car dealers, before the RTC in Olongapo City.

Know what—the court just dismissed the case. Well, first of all, the court said that PAA was merely forum shopping.

It turned out that PAA already filed a similar case in Quezon City, which was similarly dismissed for lack of cause of action.

BAP OKs planned single custodian bank system

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines has approved in principle the establishment of a custodian bank that would support the operation of the group's planned fixed income exchange.

The custodian bank will safeguard the securities of the investors of the BAP's member-banks and facilitate the clearing and settlement of fixed-income securities and other securities traded in an exchange.

BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said the single custodian bank system would allow banks to preserve the identity of their clients in contrast to a system of accrediting banks to do custodian functions.

Coronel said the BAP has yet to firm up the amount of capital required in setting up the custodian bank.

The BAP, composed of the country's over 40 commercial banks, is discussing the establishment of a single custodian bank with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to determine what regulations would be applicable to it.

The banking group has been batting for a BAP circular that will reduce, if not eliminate, of the reserve requirements on unit funds on condition that there will be an accredited third party custodian.

Meanwhile, Coronel said that the fixed-income exchange would likely start operations next year, instead of November this year, because there were several other issues that had to threshed out.

The fixed-income exchange is designed to provide a platform for the secondary trading of fixed-income securities such as government securities and commercial paper issued by private companies.

SMC emerges ...

From page B1

on what concrete steps his family would take.

"We'll come out with a statement when we already have something official," he said.

Up to press time yesterday, it was still unclear whether First Pacific would extend the exclusivity period or let it lapse but the source said First Pacific did not seem too keen on extending the MOA.

"If they'll extend the MOA, it's like they're buying time for something. What could that something be? It won't make sense," he said.

The source disclosed that PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan was now "more relaxed" and more focused on his job as the main man of the country's leading telecommunications firm.

On June 4, First Pacific signed a $925-million MOA with the Gokongwei group. The agreement provided for the formation of a joint venture between First Pacific and the Gokongweis that would own 24.47-percent stake in PLDT and 50.4-percent stake in BLC.

But for the deal to push through, the Gokongweis had wanted to conduct a full due diligence of PLDT, which the PLDT board staunchly refused.

Gov't eyes ...

From page B1

The Philippines has $1.2 billion worth of securities registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, which can be readily tapped for a global bond flotation.

He said the foreign markets were also clamoring for the re-opening of the five-year bond facility where the government raised $300 million in early September.

"The market is saying that $300 million is not a liquid size and we should increase the issue to at least $500 million . We may raise another $200 million from this facility to increase the pool to make it more tradable. A more tradable debt issue is also priced more favorably," said Edeza.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the cost of the 5-year bonds would also be lower.

The coupon rate for the 5-year bonds listed on the Luxembour Stock Exchange was 7.5 percent. Orders for the Philippine bonds as of early this month reached $525 million but the government capped the borrowing at $300 million.

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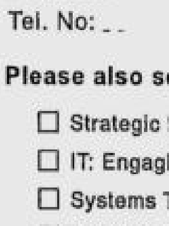

Prof. Jose M. Faustino

Professor Jose M. Faustino is AIM's Goodyear Company Professor of Business Management and the Program Director of the Marketing Strategy Course of the Institute's Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center. He has been Program Director of the Executive MBA Program conducted for Indian managers in Pune, India. He teaches and provides management consultancy in the fields of Marketing Management, Strategic Planning and Strategy Formulation, and Organizational Behavior and Development. In 1991, Prof. Faustino received the Agora Award for Excellence in Marketing Education from the Philippine Marketing Association. Prof. Faustino holds a Master in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School and a Master of Arts in Economics from Amherst College. He received his Bachelor of Arts (Cum Laude) from the Ateneo de Manila University. He also attended the AIM's Top Management Program.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, September 30, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	19.5	18.5	19.5	271,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	45.5	44	45.5	237,200
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	60
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	40,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	30	29	30	118,500
First E-Bank Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.24	1.26	492,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34	33	33.5	88,900
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	163,830
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	1,400
Phil. Savings Bank	25	27	25	27	7,600
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	11.75	21,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	3,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	6,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.33	360,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	200	200	160	200	420
Manulife Financial Corp.	1085	1085	1070	1080	1,700
Sun Life Financial Serv.	835	840	835	840	240
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22	22	22	22	23,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	460,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	475	475	465	465	9,720
Ipeople Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	1,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.65	3.9	3.6	3.9	48,000
Piltel	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	282.5	282.5	277.5	280	152,490
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	6,100
Manila Electric Co. B	33	34	33	34	519,200
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.6	670,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.44	2.42	2.42	33,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,282,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.23	0.25	390,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	20,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	167,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	15,000
RFM Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	30,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	191,000
San Miguel Corp. B	58	58.5	58	58.5	361,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	70,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	30,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	1,769,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	18,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.25	20,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	35,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	2,450,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.07	0.095	0.07	0.095	400,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.06	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	30,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.3	400,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.75	238,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	23,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	650,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	200,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	25,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.25	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRI- & TRADING BUTION					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.76	0.76	0.57	0.65	60,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.41	0.37	0.41	7,010,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.26	0.3	0.26	0.3	200,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	22.25	22.25	22	22	311,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	470	470	470	470	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	4,547,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	40,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,660,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1,106,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.94	2.12	1.94	2.1	1,475,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	800,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	92,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	8,447,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	20,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	240,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	25,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	22,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,814,650	100,161,570.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	24,167,510	130,418,135.00
PRO	18,217,000	78,661,640.00
Mining	260,000	46,600.00
OIL	47,000,000	122,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	91,459,160	309,410,145.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	442.96	P 2.40
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,550.10	DOWN .94
PRO	509.73	UP 1.35
Mining	1,114.63	DOWN 4.38
OIL	1.21	UP .02
All Shares Index	611.22	DOWN .11
Composite	1,129.34	UP .42

NO. OF ADVANCES: 30; NO. OF DECLINES: 20; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 90; NO. OF TRADES: 1,388

Globe ratings unaffected

LONDON—Standard & Poor's said on Monday that its ratings and outlook on Globe Telecom Inc. were unlikely to be affected by the company's P2.2-billion asset write-off provision that would be booked in the third quarter.

The hefty write-off will be offset by substantial reversal of certain provisions and accrual adjustments of about P1.5 billion on top of improving earnings, it said.

As a result, the company expects its net income to reach about P1 billion in the three months ended September 2002. Globe has recorded consolidated net profit of P3.1 billion in the first six months ended June 30, 2002.

The non-recurring asset write-off is mainly due to the shutdown of some elements in its subsidiary, Isla Communications Co. Inc.'s network, as part of the group's operational integration program. *Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

CENTRO Escolar University has declared a cash dividend of 10 centavos a share in favor of stockholders as of Oct. 11. The dividends will be payable on Oct. 30.

* * *

APPOINTED to different positions in **Lorenzo Shipping Corp.** were Eduardo Borja, vice president for fleet management division; Grace Ruiz, vice president for administration; Felicisimo Saldana, vice president for operations and logistics; and, Julita Valeros, vice president for finance.

* * *

ELECTED officers of **Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.** were Gerardo Lanuza Jr., chair; Juan Antonio Lanuza, vice chair; Antonio Olbes, vice chair; Amador Bacani, president; Jose Ma. Francisco, treasurer; and, Ma. Sharon Ramos-Penaflorida, corporate secretary.

* * *

PROMOTED from assistant vice president to vice president of **Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank** were Chinita Co, Maria Mapili, Edgardo Nacpil and Ledda Rebollos.

* * *

EDSA Properties Holdlings Inc. will increase its authorized capital stock from P4.5 billion to P6 billion by way of a 57-percent stock dividend with Oct. 25, 2002 as record date.

* * *

ELECTED as an independent director of **Swift Foods Inc.** was Senen Bacani. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Coyiuto group airs grievances

By Doris C. Dumlao

A GROUP of minority broker-directors of the Philippine Stock Exchange led by former PSE chair Robert Coyiuto issued yesterday a list of grievances against the bourse's leadership.

In a three-page report, Coyiuto and four other PSE directors threatened to call for a meeting of the bourse's stockholders should the current PSE leadership fail to close a deal to acquire a property that the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. offered to donate.

The five directors were concerned that the FBDC issue had been overtaken by events, with First Pacific Co. Ltd. already planning to sell its majority stake in Bonifacio Land Corp. that, together with the government, controls FBDC.

Apart from Coyiuto of R. Coyiuto Securities Inc., the four other directors who signed the grievance report were Eddie Gobing of Lucky Securities Inc., Federico Lim of Belson Securities Inc., Harry Liu of Summit Securities Inc. and Edwin Luy of Triton Securities Inc.

They belong to the same group that has been vehemently opposing the election of Vivian Yuchengco as PSE chair.

Yuchengco was installed as head of the PSE with the support of mostly non-broker directors.

Although it has started attending boardroom meetings after boycotting them for months, the Coyiuto group is disappointed that their views on certain issues have been "ignored" by their peers in the 15-member board.

The board is majority controlled by non-brokers or private sector representatives.

"We pressed for the finalization of the FBDC lot donation. It still hangs in the balance. We will press for a stockholders meeting if there is a variance of the terms from that previously reported to the stockholders," the Coyiuto group said in its report.

ALI seen earning ₱1.35B from Capitol Hills project

PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. is expected to generate about P1.35 billion from its 55-percent stake in the soon-to-be-launched Ayala Hillside Estate in Capitol Hills, Quezon City.

In a report, Grace Crisostomo Cerdenia of 2tradeasia.com said the sale of lots from the first phase of the project alone would reach P548 million.

Estimating Ayala Land's overall earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization margins at about 40 percent to 45 percent, Cerdenia said: "The main story behind the stability of its margins rest on their ability to price in projects competitively, as well as savings obtained from re-engineering on bulk purchases and product development."

After the successful launch of the Ayala Greenfield Estate in Calamba, Laguna, Ayala Land is set to launch the Ayala Hillside Estate in Capitol Hills and initially offer 98 out of 241 lots.

Cerdenia explained that the P1.35 billion in estimated revenues from the project were based on a lot size of 550 square meters at P18,500 per square meter.

COUNTRY SHARES
As of October 01, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1,650,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	725,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	95,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	260,000	260,000
CAPITOL HILLS	107,500	110,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	165,000	180,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	-	350,000/450,000*/600,000**
EVERCREST A	-	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	80,000/150,000*/250,000**
FOREST HILLS A/C*	210,000/250,000**	230,000/260,000*
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	270,000/280,000*	-
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,800,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	600,000/700,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	100,000	115,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND/C3***	95,000/275,000***	100,000/300,000**
MT. MALARAYAT A/C*	-	350,000/625,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	Please call	Please call
PUERTO AZUL	-	115,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	190,000	220,000
RIVIERA A/B*/C**	-	190,000/350,000*/400,000**
ROCKWELL CLUB	300,000	380,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	90,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	90,000/250,000*/350,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	1,800,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	-	200,000/300,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	800,000*	400,000/850,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	780,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	150,000	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	310,000	-
WACK WACK	6,500,000	-

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SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF SEPT. 30, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000	680,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	550,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	90,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	380,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	150,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	330,000	300,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	400,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	270,000	250,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
21 MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP)	13,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,600,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	600,000	
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	700,000	
25 METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	100,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	340,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A""B""C"	Please call	Please call
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	150,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	360,000	320,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,650,000	
34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND.)	250,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	800,000
36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND "	800,000	750,000
37 VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	
38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		290,000
39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,900,000	

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UNION CEMENT CORPORATION

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO STOCKHOLDERS OF ALSONS CEMENT CORPORATION

Union Cement Corporation will be making a tender offer to buy approximately 12% of the issued and outstanding common shares of Alsons Cement Corporation ("ACC") from the minority shareholders of ACC. The tender offer will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Terms of the Tender Offer and the SEC Form 19-1 to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange on October 2, 2002.

The offer period is from October 2, 2002 to 3:00 p.m. on November 12, 2002. Details of the offer will be published in two newspapers of general circulation from October 2, 2002 to October 4, 2002.

UCC has entered into an agreement with the majority stockholder of ACC to acquire approximately 88% of the issued and outstanding common shares of ACC. After the completion of the acquisition, a petition for voluntary delisting of the shares of ACC will be filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange.

UNION CEMENT CORPORATION

By:

ROBERTO M. LAVIÑA
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

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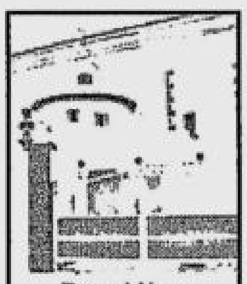

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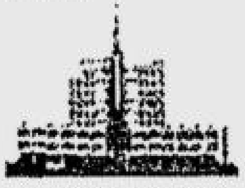

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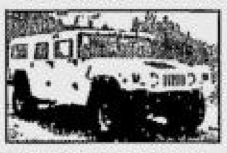

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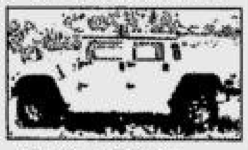

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 17 October 2002, 2:00 p.m., at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
VPI-102	No. 15 Highland Drive, Blue Ridge Subd., Quezon City	858.8 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. T-135787) with building and improvements	P 13,098,700.00
VPI-101	No. 4 Crestline Road, Blue Ridge Subd., Quezon City	835.5 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. T-209899) with building and improvements	P 11,863,700.00
LDA-123-a	No. 72 Apple St., Km. 18, Maywood Village II, Parañaque City	340 sq.m. residential-industrial lot (TCT No. T-146227) with building and improvements	P 5,746,100.00
BATANGAS			
2 LAO 09	Bo. Talaibon, Ibaan	5,000 sq.m. agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-111244) with building and improvements	P 12,332,200.00
BULACAN			
LRD-156	Bo. Caimon, Malolos	Four parcels of adjoining vacant commercial lots (TCT Nos. T-91884 and T-91885) with total area of 866 sq.m.	P 23,815,000.00
LAGUNA			
CST-8	Dila Road, Brgy. Biñan, Pagsanjan	1,416 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. T-177760) with building	P 3,446,000.00
MINDORO OCCIDENTAL			
LJG-155	Poblacion, Abra de Ilog	13,301 sq.m. agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-21662)	P 1,326,000.00
QUEZON			
LRD-157	Merchan St., Lucena City	805 sq.m. commercial lot (TCT No. T-30703) with building and improvements	P 21,868,900.00
RIZAL			
VAB-76	No. 7 Darius St., Kingsville Subd., Mayamot, Antipolo City	232 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. T-399193) with building and improvements	P 1,161,100.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in DBP's official bid form available at the Acquired Assets Sales Unit, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours.
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V;
818-9511 loc. 1429 for Code No. 2 LAO 09; and
(043) 288-4399 or 818-9511 loc. 1435 (c/o Cynthia) for Code No. CST-8.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, 2002)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given that S2 License of BENJAMIN R. CRUZ was lost. If no contest received, new license will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 27, 30 & Oct. 1, 2002)

UNIVERSAL REALTY DEVELOPMENT CORP. STOCK CERTIFICATE WITH NO. 31 FOR 167 SHARES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF HERBERT U. UY WAS DECLARED LOST. IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED
PDI-SEPT. 24, OCT. 1 & 8, 2002

PERSONAL

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Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude Worker of Miracles, helper for the helpless Pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eight day, It has never failed.
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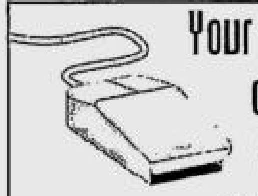
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **MARIO BATOBALONOS LAO** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **ARTHURO** to **MARIO** in the birth certificate of **ARTHURO LAO** who was born on February 19, 1950 at Poblacion, Sta. Fe Cebu and whose parents are **LADISLAO LAO** and **ILUMINADA BATOBALONOS.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 07 October 2002.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI--Oct. 1 & 7, 2002)



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Economic chiefs struggle for one view on economy

WASHINGTON—World economic chiefs grappled to find a unified message on the global economy as they wrapped up meetings here with a series of pledges to help struggling nations and create more growth engines in the advanced economies.

"We of course discussed a lot about the global economy, and I was encouraged because there was no doom and gloom, but a differentiated analysis and some realistic confidence that the recovery would continue," IMF managing director Horst Koehler said Sunday after the annual meetings of the 184-member International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

World Bank president James Wolfensohn added, "I share the sense of optimism about the future, not wild optimism, but not wild pessimism.

"We are left with a number of things to do...We should stop philosophizing and get on with our respective tasks." To ensure recovery the finance ministers and central bank governors called for:

- Japan to mop up the bad debts weighing on its banking system.
- Europe to reform its labor markets.
- The United States to clean up corporate boardrooms.
- Plans for new bankruptcy-style system to deal with countries in debt crises, such as Argentina.

Outside the meetings, security was heavy during a weekend of protests, in which several thousand anti-globalization protesters howled about the failure of the institutions to help the world's poor.

Inside, policymakers were befuddled about Japan's plans to wipe off the bad loans strangling the banking system that have kept the world's second-largest economy in a rut.

An unprecedented plan announced Sept. 18 by the Bank of Japan to buy shares from commercial banks remains a puzzle, some leaders said.

"I did not come away with an understanding of how these particular interventions are going to contribute to the change" in economic growth, US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said.

AFP

Free trade is mythical road to growth

NEW YORK—The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are coming under heavy fire, yet increasingly, the most dramatic protests are not on the streets, but in academic quarters.

After stinging criticism of the two organizations by Nobel Prize winner and former World Bank chief economist Joseph Stiglitz, a new book from a Cambridge University professor challenges the very bedrock of these institutions—that globalization and free trade are a sure-fire path to prosperity.

Those notions, embodied in the World Bank, the IMF and more recently in the World Trade Organization, were challenged most spectacularly in 1999, when tens of thousands of demonstrators descended on the streets of Seattle to disrupt the WTO's ministerial meetings.

The failure of the current orthodoxy is that it has not delivered growth at all," Chang told Reuters in an interview in New York, shortly before the World Bank and IMF hold their annual meetings in Washington, D.C.

The main problem, Chang says, is that the Washington Consensus—the mix of conservative macroeconomic policy, trade liberalization, deregulation and privatization recommended by the World Bank and IMF—has not worked.

We were promised that if we used this free-market policy, we would get growth," he said.

Instead, growth in developing countries was halved to around 1.5 percent between 1980 and 2000 from the annual growth rates seen between 1960 and 1980, Chang said.

Reuters

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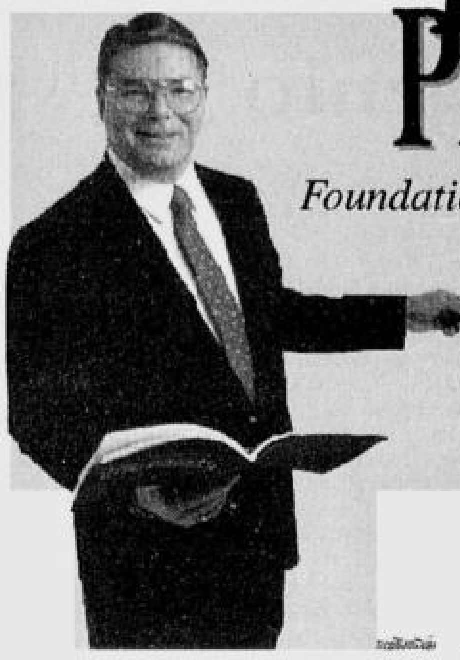

Dr. Blaine N. Lee, Ph.D.
Author of "The Power Principle: Influence with Honor" and one of Franklin Covey's top-rate consultants

Friday ☼ October 11, 2002
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Tokyo stocks rebound as banking chief exits

TOKYO—Tokyo stock prices rebounded, the yen rose and government bond prices fell on Monday after Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi confounded skeptics and stunned investors by replacing his top banking regulator in a move seen by many analysts as a prelude to aggressive bank reforms.

The Nikkei share average, which was down more than 2 percent in the morning, rebounded to trade down 0.95 percent by 2:20 p.m. (0520 GMT) in the minutes after the changes to Koizumi's Cabinet were announced.

"The man set against public funds is now gone and one that is more inclined to using them is in. The stock market is clearly recovering some ground on this development," said Tsuyoshi Segawa, equity strategist at Shinko Securities.

Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka, who has long favored a controversial injection of taxpayer money into the creaking banking system, will replace Hakuo Yanagisawa as the head of the Financial Services Agency as well as keeping his current job.

The move was seen as a possible presage to a more aggressive approach by Koizumi to cleaning up a banking sector hobbled by at least 52 trillion yen ($424 billion) in bad loans and ending a decade-long deterioration in Japan's financial system.

The dollar was quoted at 121.16/17 yen from around 121.50 before the announcement.

Reuters

Arbiter not ready to say US recession is over

WASHINGTON—The head of an elite panel that decides US business cycles said on Sunday the recession may have ended as early as last November, but his group won't formally declare it over until it rules out a renewed slump.

We're not ready to do that," Robert Hall, chair of the National Bureau of Economic Research's business-cycle dating panel, told a meeting of business economists here.

A lot will depend on the (payroll) number that comes out on Friday. If it's negative, that's definitely going to cause us to pause," Hall later told reporters.

The labor department will on Friday report employment data for the month of September. Economists surveyed by Reuters expect on average payrolls to have edged ahead by 5,000 while the unemployment rate is seen rising to 5.9 percent from 5.7 percent in August.

The economists who make up the Business Cycle Dating Committee often wait many months before pegging peaks and troughs in the economy. The group, widely regarded as authoritative, held off until December 1992 to declare that March 1991 marked the end of the 1990-91 recession, for instance.

Reuters

Asian stocks fall sharply

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks fell sharply on Monday following a steep drop on Wall Street as flagging consumer confidence in the world's biggest economy unsettled the region's export-oriented markets.

The dollar eased against the yen and was steady versus the euro after the Group of Seven industrialized nations made a bland reference to currencies after a weekend meeting in New York.

Financial markets in Japan were awaiting Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's expected new Cabinet lineup and clarification on a fund injection into ailing banks.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei index had shed 1.62 percent to 9375.85 by 0300 GMT, while the broader TOPIX index had lost 1.59 percent to 921.34.

Other Asian markets began trading in dismay after US stocks ratcheted up losses for a fifth straight week.

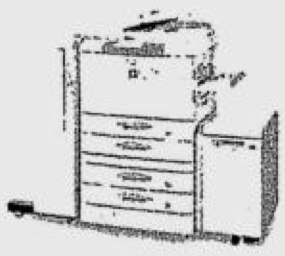
The Dow Jones Industrial Average sank 3.7 percent to 7,701.45, while the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.23 percent to 827.37 and the Nasdaq Composite Index shed 1.84 percent to 1,199.16.

Stock market turmoil and fears of an attack on Iraq soured US consumer sentiment for a fourth straight month in September, the University of Michigan reported on Friday.

Its consumer sentiment index slipped to 86.1 from 87.6, the lowest reading since November.

Reuters

A SHARP CHANGE HAS JUST BEGUN.



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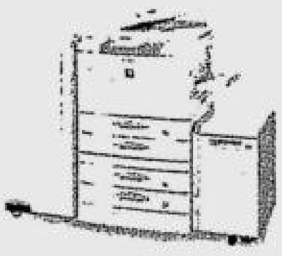

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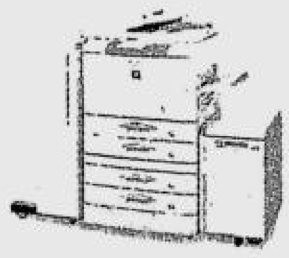

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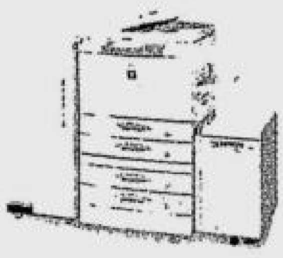

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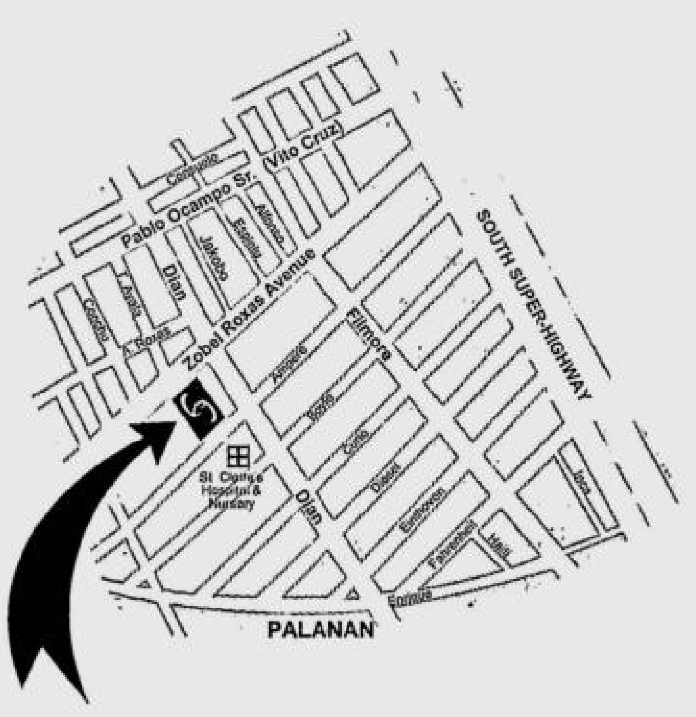

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**On the Occasion of the
Seventh Death Anniversary of**

Don Eugenio S. Baltao

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered tomorrow,
02 October 2002 at the following churches:

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL - New Manila, Quezon City	7:00 AM & 6 PM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH - Lantana St., Cubao, Q.C.	7:00 AM & 6 PM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE - Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH CHURCH - Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 PM
OUR LADY OF THE AIRWAYS CHAPEL - Ninoy Aquino Ave. Par	6:00 AM & 6 PM
MONASTERIO DE SANTA CLARA- Katipunan Road, Quezon City	6:00 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO - Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 AM
ST. NICOLAS DE TOLENTINE - Cabanatuan City	6:00 AM
CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART - Nueva Ecija Doctors Hospital, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City	7:00 AM
CHAPEL OF MARIA ASSUMPTA SEMINARY - Cabanatuan City	6:00 AM
ST. NICOLAS DE TOLENTINE-CRYPTA - Cabanatuan City	6:30 AM
DAMBANA NG INA NG LAGING SAKLOLO - Cabanatuan City	5:30 PM
ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH - Subic, Zambales	6:00 AM
ST. FERDINAND CATHEDRAL - Lucena City	6:00 AM
PINES CITY COLLEGES STUDENT CENTER - Magsaysay Ave., Baguio	1:00 PM
BAGUIO CATHEDRAL Immaculate Heart of Mary - Baguio City	7:00 AM
SACRED HEART COMMUNITY CHAPEL - Baguio City	12:15 PM
ST. VINCENT PARISH CHURCH - Baguio City	6:00 AM
DON BOSCO CHURCH - Baguio City	6:30 AM
CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART - Pines City Doctors Hospital, Magsaysay Avenue, Baguio City	9:00 AM
ADORATION CONVENT CHAPEL - Baguio City	6:30 AM
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PEACE AND GOOD VOYAGE - Antipolo City	6:00 AM
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR PARISH - Antipolo Hills Subd., Antipolo City	7:00 PM

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

CLAUDIO P. SUEGAY

Ret. Col. PA INF. 0-2968

*Died in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
on September 28, 2002 at the age of 84.*

Survived by his children, Ruben, Serafin, Susan, Danilo, Dario, Edgardo & Gil, son-in-law, and daughters-in-law, Erlinda, Judy, Alfredo, Connie, Tessie, Mylah, Lenlen, & grandchildren.

His body lies at his residence at #28 Gen. Luna St., Ampid II, San Mateo Rizal.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 5, 2002 at 10 A.M. at San Mateo Catholic Cemetery after the Mass at St. Joseph Quasi Parish Church at Ampid I, San Mateo Rizal.

In Loving Memory
On the 75th Birth Anniversary and
the 10th Death Anniversary of

Jose I. Talusan, Sr.

October 1, 1927-October 10, 1992

Holy Masses will be offered on October 1 and October 10 at the following churches:

Sta. Maria della Strada
Katipunan Road, Quezon City — 6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Project 6, Quezon City — 6:00 p.m.
Mary Mother of God
South Triangle Rd, Hillsborough NJ, USA

His loving wife, **Zeny**, children, **Joey** and **Ruby Ann**, **Sueña** and **Phil Manalang**, **Nesty** and **Nanette**, **Danny** and **Ruby Rosa**, **Mario** and **Rhona**, and grandchildren request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

So Dearly Loved...
So Fondly Remembered...
So Truly Missed...

In memory of
a devoted husband, a loving father,
a dedicated and an inspiring leader...

AMB. RAMON LIZARES NOLAN

On the First Anniversary of his rebirth to Eternal Life

Masses will be offered on Oct. 1, 2002 at the

Sta. Maria Della Strada, Katipunan Rd., QC 6 PM
Ateneo Law School, Rockwell, Makati City 6 PM

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

CARMEN "MAMENG" CRUZ-ZAMORA

Wife of Arturo Zamora, Sr. (†)

*Peacefully joined her Creator
on September 30, 2002.*

Her bereaved children, **Wopsy** and **Agile**, **Yuyo** and **Lani**, grandchildren, **Lee** and **Kim**, **Mila**, **Caloy** and **Magu**, her brothers and sisters, **Delfin** and **Lulu**, **Pabling (†)** and **Upeng (†)**, **JV (†)** and **Lucy (†)**, **Charito** and **Poch Estella**, **Moning** and **Ed Ledesma**, **Jun (†)** and **Emily**, and **Tony** and **Josie**, and her auntie, **Tita Medy Moya** request readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the **St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Chapel #1**, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Funeral Mass shall be held at **9:00 a.m., Thursday, October 3, 2002.**

ADELA L. BUENSUCESO

of Balanga City, Bataan and San Francisco, California

*Peacefully joined our Lord on September 30, 2002
at the age of 82.*

Her bereaved sister **Manuela**; brothers and spouses **Jose & Zenaida Gaza, Benjamin & Crispina Ramos**; nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church (near Claret School) in UP Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, on Thursday, October 3, 2002 after the 9:00 AM Funeral Mass.

Manuel "Manoling" de Lara Olivar M.D.

*of Poblacion, Villasis, Pangasinan
who peacefully joined his Creator on September 27, 2002 at the age of 81.*

His loving wife **Milagros Libranda Olivar**; his children and-in-laws **Dr. Aurelia & Dante Fabro, Dr. Fatima & Dr. Eugene de Leon, Carmen & Dr. Bert Versola, Dr. Francisco & Dr. Lilian Olivar, Imelda & Konrad Fallman, Dr. Elflida & Dr. Antonio Bautista, Amelia & Michael Dumlao, Engr. Alfonso & Engr. Lisa Olivar. Engr. Gilberto & Arlene Olivar, Dr. Arnulfo & Dr. Leah Olivar.** His grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at family residence in Poblacion, Villasis, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2002 at the Villasis Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 am Mass at St. Anthony Abbot Church, Villasis, Pangasinan.

Our Dear Classmate

Colonel ROMAN P MADDELA, PC (Ret)

of PMA Class of 1968

Peacefully joined his Creator on 29 September 2002 at the age of 55.

We join his loving wife **Evelyn**; children **Jed**, **JR** and **Jenieve**; sisters **Edith**, **Nancy**, **Shirley** and **Yolanda**; other relatives and friends in requesting the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state the Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo Cathedral, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, 02 October 2002 at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila at 12:00 noon.

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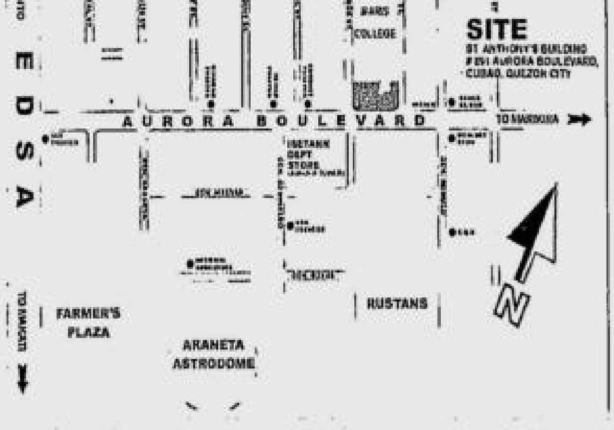


"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

INVITATION TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of 4th quarter, *Office and Printing supplies and materials for the Supreme Court.*

The approved budget for the contract is FOUR MILLION FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY NINE PESOS (P4,429,299.00) chargeable against the current appropriations of the Supreme Court for supplies and materials.

Prospective suppliers/dealers who have not been previously pre-qualified may secure pre-qualification requirements and bid documents from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, OAS, 4th Floor Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).**

I. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All pre-qualification requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on **October 23, 2002** at exactly 1:00 p.m., 4th Floor Multi-purpose Hall, SC Room #3.

II. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference of pre-qualified bidders shall be on **October 30, 2002** at 10:00 a.m., 4th Floor Multi-purpose Hall, SC.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives on **November 6, 2002** at 2:00 p.m., 4th Floor Multi-purpose Hall, SC.

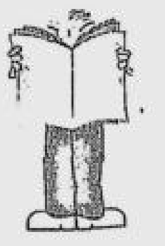
The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

September 27, 2002.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(October 1 & 8, 2002)

Where you find the best



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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT

The NFA wishes to announce the schedule of vessels being utilized in the government's current rice imports. Information on vessels other than those listed hereunder which are loaded with rice from other origin and docked at any Philippine port may be relayed to the Philippine Coast Guard, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the National Food Authority's Hotline numbers 749-9790 or 741-0772.

ORIGIN	CURRENTLY LOADING IN SUPPLY COUNTRY	(QTY. IN MT)	CURRENTLY SAILING TO PHIL. PORT	(QTY. IN MT)	CURRENTLY UNLOADING	(QTY. IN MT)	DISPORT	OTHER NOMINATED VESSELS	(QTY. IN MT)
INDIA	1. MV MARITIME VICTORY	15,000.00	1. MV HERMES	13,500.00	1. MV STAR 2000	32,000.00	BATANGAS	1. MV XUAN CHENG	13,000.00
			2. MV APJ SUSHMA	22,000.00	2. MV RADIANT STAR	22,000.00	LA UNION		
			3. MV ASEAN GLORY	17,900.00	3. MV GEM OF TUTICORN	32,000.00	MANILA		
			4. MV JAT NAMU	12,000.00	4. MV OCEAN HOST	40,335.00	MANILA		
			5. MV MORAKOT NAREE	15,000.00	5. MV HARMONY	7,800.00	MANILA		
			6. MV SHANG YUAN MEN	15,500.00	6. MV DIANA	16,000.00	CDO		
			7. MV JA GANG	11,500.00					
VIETNAM	1. MV TO LICH	14,000.00	8. MV VINH HUNG	6,000.00	7. MV VINH AN	6,000.00	GEN. SANTOS	2. MV NORTHERN STAR	5,700.00
	2. MV YU JIA	13,500.00	9. MV THAI BINH	13,800.00	8. MV BUDDY RAKHMADI	9,400.00	ZAMBOANGA	3. MV HUNG VUONG V. 02	6,500.00
	3. MV VINH ANN	5,500.00			9. MV VINH PHUOC	10,700.00	BACOLOD	4. MV HUNG VUONG V. 01	3,600.00
	4. MV SONG DUONG	14,000.00			10. MV TIEN YEN	6,250.00	BATANGAS	5. MV HA NAM	6,000.00
	5. MV CABOT ORIENT	3,500.00			11. MV VINH LONG	5,950.00	TABACO	6. MV HA DONG V.01	6,500.00
	6. MV AYU PERMATA	8,000.00			12. MY TRADE ETERNITY*	2,225.00	MANILA	7. MV HA DONG V.02	6,500.00
					13. MY DAINTY RIVER*	4,835.00	MANILA	8. MV FOKUS	7,000.00
					14. MY BEAUTY RIVER*	2,200.00	MANILA	9. MV BINK PHUOC	6,5000.00
					15. MV PRETTY RIVER*	3,201.60	MANILA		
THAILAND								10. MV SO NA MU	12,500.00
TOTAL		73,500.00		127,200.00		200,896.60			73,900.00

(PDI--Oct. 1, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC)
City Government of Cabanatuan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Date: September 24, 2002

1. The City Government of Cabanatuan invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Materials, Labor and Equipment for the proposed construction of the Cesar F. Vergara Bridge, details are as follows:

   Location: Barangays Sumacab Norte and Talipapa, City of Cabanatuan
   Brief Description: Length 510.80 lm
   Carriageway: 10.50 m w/ 2 - 0.76 m sidewalk
   No. of Span: 17 @ 30 lm/span
   Superstructure: Reinforced Concrete Deck Slab on P/S Type IV B Girder
   Substructure: Bored Piles (2 - 1.80 diameter/ pier-abutment)
   Source of Fund: Locally Funded
   Required PCAB Registration and Classification: "AAA" with specialization on Bridge Construction

2. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), City Hall, Cabanatuan City for a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) which are available during office hours from October 15 to November 15, 2002. Interested qualified bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
3. Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification Statements shall be on or before November 29, 2002.
4. Pre-bid conference will be held at the Conference Room, City Mayor's Office, City Hall, Cabanatuan City on November 29, 2002 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of not less than two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the bid price in the form of Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check or Irrevocable Letter of Credit from a reputable Bank, and shall be delivered to the above mentioned address on or before 10:00 a.m., 20 December 2002, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
6. The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders or any obligation to inform the affected Bidder or Bidders of the grounds for the Employer's action.
7. The proposed construction of the Cesar F. Vergara Bridge shall be implemented thru a turn-key scheme.

(SGD.) JULIUS CESAR V. VERGARA
City Mayor

(PDI--Sept. 24, Oct. 1 & 8, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC)
City Government of Cabanatuan

INVITATION TO LEASE

Date: September 24, 2002

1. In line with the policy of the State to encourage the private sector as the nation's main engine for gowth and development, the Local Government of Cabanatuan City would like to pursue the same principle by offering some assets for privatization. Thus, we are offering the private sector the opportunity to operate and manage our City Transport Terminal.

   Pursuant City Resolution No. 312-2001 dated December 19, 2001 and City Resolution No. 291-2002 dated July 10, 2002 the City Government of Cabanatuan is offering the public to lease our City Transport Terminal. The said terminal is located in a 2.5-hectare commercial lot along Circumferential Road and it houses the following:

   - 30 bus berths
   - 56 mini-bus berths
   - 58 jeepney berths
   - 160 units Commercial Stalls for dry goods
   - 80 units Commercial Stalls for fruit and vegetable section
   - 36 units Commercial Stalls for meat section
   - 21 units Commercial Stalls for fish section
   - 30 units of Office and Commercial spaces
   - 78 units of Wholesale Market spaces
   - Parking Spaces for 14 buses, 90 mini-buses, and 58 jeepneys/private vehicles

2. Terms and Conditions:

   Term: 25 years
   Goodwill: Php 25,000,000.00 Non-Refundable
   Advance Payment: Php 22,000,000.00 as advance rental
   Annual Rental: PhP 22,000,000.00 to be divided and paid equally on a monthly basis

3. Interested parties must submit their expression of interest together with documents detailing their financial capability.
4. Document must be contained in a sealed envelope properly identified as "LETTER OF INTENT TO LEASE THE CITY TRANSPORT TERMINAL" to the Office of the PBAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), City Hall, Cabanatuan City on or before October 31, 2002.

(SGD.) JULIUS CESAR V. VERGARA
City Mayor

(PDI--Sept. 24, Oct. 1 & 8, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
BONDOC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Management Office
Catanauan, Quezon

The BDP-PMO wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the materials needed for the **DIVERSION DAM PROJECT** in Brgy. Inabuan, San Francisco, Quezon.

Pre-qualification forms, complete details and particulars of the abovementioned can be obtained from BDP-PMO, Governor Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00 from **October 14-16, 2002.**

Accomplished pre-qualification statement and annexes should be received by BDP Lucena Liason Office or Project Management Office, Catanauan, Quezon on or before **October 18, 2002**.

Only qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the pre-bidding conference which will be held on **October 24, 2002** at BDP-PMO, Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon.

BDP-PMO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **CEPRIANO J. PUNZALAN, JR.**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 29, 30 & Oct. 1, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Municipality of Malitbog

OFFICE OF THE PBAC CHAIRMAN
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Malitbog, Bukidnon, through the Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) at least Medium A for Roads, to apply for the pre-qualification / eligibility screening and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the DAR-ADB Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP) as follows:

	Contract Name / Location of Project	Approved Budget For Contract works	Calendar Days (Duration)
1.	Rehabilitation of Klabo Proper-Mindagat Proper Farm - to - Market Road 6.3 kilometers	P9,191,664.00	146 CD

Interested Contractors legally owning desirable heavy equipments such as bulldozer, grader, road roller, shall submit their letter of intent and duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statement (Pre-C) to the PBAC Chairman, LGU, Malitbog, Bukidnon on or before **October 9, 2002**, eligibility screening shall be held on **October 15, 2002** at 9:00 a.m., New Municipal Hall, Malitbog, Bukidnon.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **October 22, 2002** at Municipal Conference Hall, Malitbog, Bukidnon.

Bid documents will be available to pre-qualified bidders from **October 15, 2002** to **October 22, 2002** at the Municipal Engineer's Office, Municipal Hall upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P3,000.00**.

Submission of bid proposal in two sealed envelopes to the PBAC Chairman and Opening of Bids will be on **November 14, 2002, 9:00-10:00 A.M.** at the Municipal Conference Hall.

Bids with submitted bid prices that are higher than the approved budget for the contract under bidding shall be rejected outright.

All particulars relative to Pre-qualification Eligibility, Bid Security, Performance Bond Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the Provisions of P.D. 1594 as amended on August 2000 and implementing Rules and Regulation.

The Municipal Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) OSMUNDO N. DELA ROSA
Municipal Mayor / PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 25, 26 & Oct. 1, 2002)

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AYALA CENTER

REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

'Facelifts' in Metro areas open up business options

By Tessa R. Salazar

SOMETIMES, changes in physical makeup are not brought about by caprices but by need.

Take, for instance, the increasing urban developments in Metro Manila. It is said that the congestion in traditional business districts led to the rise of the new central business district (CBD) developments. Several CBDs in the metropolis offer more incentives for businesses because they give more options for locations. Competition among many CBDs would ultimately be good for its tenants, as commercial and residential floor space rates would be pegged competitively.

Evolving key areas predicted by FPDSavills Research to offer high degrees of self-sufficiency by way of comprehensively managed environments and integrated business communities are the Alabang Business District, Bay City (formerly Boulevard 2000), Eastwood City, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Rockwell Center and a soon-to-be redeveloped Araneta Center.

Kenles Nite Club
TESS'S flowers
TIN'S STORE
BUSINESS PROPOSAL
PROPOSED FACELIFT
BUSINESS INVESTORS
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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Gateway

Named Metro Manila's gateway to southern Tagalog provinces is Alabang. It is also one of the fastest growing commercial, industrial and residential districts in the country. It is 16 kilometers from Makati, 10 km from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and within 15 km from the industrial estates of Laguna province.

Its crowning glory is an 8.6-hectare property development called Madrigal Business Park created in 1992. Now, it is also home to Filinvest Corporate City, and more recently the Northgate CyberZone, an 18.7-hectare information technology corridor.

Massive infra project

Bay City, on the other hand, is where the controversial Diosdado Macapagal (formerly Boulevard 2000) Avenue can be found. This "road to perdition" connects a 5.5-km internal road system linking the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Coastal Road with existing external routes. Bay City is a reclaimed land development along the coast of Manila Bay.

It is in this area that the Public Estates Authority launched a massive infrastructure and urban development project described by FPDSavills Research as aimed at creating world-class business communities covering several municipalities along Manila Bay. Included in the development of the Bay City are the Manila Bay Developers Association, SM Prime Holdings Inc., Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Pasay Hongkong Realty Development Corp.

Most successful IT park

Megaworld Corp.'s Eastwood City, where Cyber Park is located, is said to be the most successful information technology park in the country to date. This 15-hectare development in one of the trendiest hangouts of the young set in Libis, Quezon City, consists of four fully completed and occupied office buildings such as IBM and Citibank regional services office. It also has a bustling retail development called Eastwood City Walk.

The newest addition is a 38-story, 68,000-sq.-m (gross floor area) residential tower called the Grand Palazzio. Its other new office developments are the 11-story Eastwood Corporate Plaza and the soon-to-be-completed Cyber One.

Emerging urban center

Another emerging urban center is Fort Bonifacio Global City at the sprawling 440-hectare Fort Bonifacio—former headquarters of the Philippine Army. Global City boasts of a modern underground dual piping system for potable water and effluents, electrical and fiber optic cabling systems. It also has a 12-m deep drainage detention center with a capacity of 22 million liters of excess water, which ensures a flood-free environment for its locators.

The 53-story Pacific Plaza Towers, the 30-story Essensa Towers, the Net One Center and HatchAsia GlobalCity Center are said to be ideal for IT companies as these are complemented by a modern telecoms system. The Manila Japanese School, likewise, has constructed its facilities in a 4-hectare campus. The British School of Manila had earlier opened its doors here in 2001, while the International School-Manila started classes this August here.

A modern interchange (road access) that would link the Global City to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport via the Sales Road/Nichols interchange is in the planning stage.

Mixed-use dev't

The Rockwell Center in Makati City was created as a mixed-use development consisting of residential towers equipped with a clubhouse, office buildings, a hotel and a shopping center.

Located between Makati and Ortigas, Rockwell Center recently unveiled its "Manasala," a 600-bedroom Grade A condominium development to be completed in 2006. The Ramp, a 1-km-long above-level access way connecting Estrella Street to Edsa, was recently opened to traffic.

Major facelift

Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, is recently undergoing a major facelift. One of the largest retail, entertainment, and mixed-use centers in the Philippines, it will soon feature the Araneta Cyber Center, a 35.5-hectare IT park development. Other future plans are a 325,160-sq.-m mall and a 83,612-sq.-m office, hotel and condominium complex.

Other expansion plans include the construction of 400,000 housing units, additional office and retail space and a giant communications tower in the next 20 years. The 86-hectare Araneta Center began its prominence in the 1960s and is the brainchild of Jose Amado Araneta.

Metro Pacific affiliate pioneers 'new urbanism' in Luzon

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MEXICO, Pampanga—An affiliate of the Metro Pacific group has embarked on the "new urbanism" trend to market the "best-built environment north of Metro Manila" in this town.

"New urbanism," which has made urban living much better in the United States and Europe, is actually fast taking shape at The Lakeshore here.

The Central Country Estate Inc. (CCEI), through the consortium of the Metro Pacific Corp., Nobleman Properties and N.S. Mangio Construction and Development Corp., is pioneering the 234-hectare, self-contained community.

Community plan

"This is more than a residential subdivision. We have embarked on an architecture of a community which is what new urbanism is all about and that's precisely the concept of The Lakeshore," said architect Nestor Mangio, chair and president of CCEI.

This proposed community features carefully designed houses, a 12-hectare manmade lake, recreational facilities, parks and promenades, a school, a church and a hospital. Also included in the community plan are a food terminal, wet and dry market, nursery demo farms, a light industrial park, a provincial capitol center and a public transport terminal.

According to Mangio, the huge estate combines the elements of "walkability, affordability and accessibility."

"Everything is within reach. The basic everyday needs as well as activities for worship, education, workplace, recreation and shopping are within walking distance," he said.

The Lakeshore is near the SM City Pampanga and Robinsons shopping mall. The University of the Assumption is planning to start its extension campus at the Lakeshore and the provincial capitol will be moved here.

For affordability, CCEI offers a wide range of housing types. The choices are duplex, townhouses and single-detach units. Four model homes were shown during a recent soft launch.

Mangio designed the units while New York-based designer Tina Periquet rendered the interior design.

Attuned to the need of families to spend more time together while anticipating economic growth in this part of Luzon, Mangio said CCEI chose the "best location."

Accessibility

Located along the Mexico section of the North Luzon Expressway, The Lakeshore is accessible by car, bus and in the future, by the North Rail connecting the Clark Special Economic Zone and Metro Manila.

The CCEI built a toll way at Km 71 here to support the government's thrust in infrastructure development while enhancing the lakeshore's accessibility to its future residents.

Mangio said the P12-million toll way, which would be donated to the government next month, would serve as a major route to and from the eastern villages of Mexico.

It is also an alternate route to Angeles City, Magalang town and Clark.

The Philippine National Construction Corp., which manages the North Luzon Expressway, has given the Lakeshore's toll road project a notice of acceptance.

Mangio said from The Lakeshore and via the North Rail, people working in Makati City could be in Pampanga in 35 minutes. The Diosdado Macapagal International Airport would be 45 minutes away.

"People can live in Pampanga and work in Metro Manila with better mobility," Mangio said. "It is also possible to have your workplace within a walking distance from your home. This will afford you more time with your family. You can even take your lunch at home. You don't have to go through the monstrous traffic."

Leisure hub

Mangio said the manmade lake, the central feature of the well-landscaped community, makes The Lakeshore one of Central Luzon's leisure hubs.

CCEI maintained the natural streams flowing toward the estate, tapping these, including rainwater, to feed the 12-hectare lake.

A few months ago, Mangio released tilapia fingerlings in the lake. He said these have multiplied over time, indicating that fish can survive at the lake.

He said the lake would be a perfect place for water sports, such as fishing and sailing. Mangio said a bird and swan sanctuary would be developed.

"If you go by the rule of strictly business, you may not want to develop it but in the long term it is the homeowners who profit most by way of appreciation of their property," Mangio explained.

According to him, value is added to the investment of homeowners because of the amenities and facilities that are being built.

In a seaside community in Florida, which developed into an archetype of new urbanism, Mangio said a house and lot now sells for $500,000 from $13,000 in 1982.

"To us at CCEI, good neighborhood is more important than just having a good house," he said.

FARM BY THE LAKE

Emilio S. Lim Jr. (Esla) Farm located in Barangay Palsara, Balete, Batangas, is not unlike any other properties on sale today. The Esla farm community sits just beside the majestic Taal Lake offering not only fertile farm soil but also a haven for water sports enthusiasts. Amenities include cottages, pavilions for functions, swimming pool, landscaped garden, basketball court, jet skis, boat launch, storage and docking facilities. Each farm lot, measuring about 1,000 sq. m, is equipped with road, water and electricity and can be reached via Star Highway at Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

HOUSING ISSUES

Creba dialogues with Cabinet members

DIALOGUES with ranking members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet on specific issues in the housing program for the low- and middle-income homeless families will be one of the highlights of the 2002 Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) national convention at the Baguio Country Club in Baguio City on Oct. 9-11.

This was announced by Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr., and overall convention chair Florante C. Ofrecio. The presence of Cabinet members engaging in lively exchange of views and information with housing industry players is expected to draw more participants to the Creba-HUDCC national convention.

DEFENSOR

Moreover, President Macapagal, invited to be the convention keynote speaker, may stay to personally hear how her department heads respond to the current issues being raised by industry leaders and players.

The national convention coincides with the observance of the Housing Month which focuses on the important role housing development plays in people's lives and as a pump-primer of the national economy. The event likewise marks the 29th founding anniversary of Creba, the largest industry conglomeration of institutional, corporate and individual members. It has some 4,000 members all over the country. It will soon formally organize 10 Creba-USA chapters and another one in Vancouver, Canada.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani A. Braganza is expected to talk on the existing rules requiring the conversion of agricultural lands although these had been previously rezoned by local government units as residential or commercial areas, before the housing developers can start their project.

Interior Secretary Jose D. Lina will respond to questions on the number of signatures of local government officials required for the issuance of development permits to builders, particularly for housing projects.

Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez will answer queries from Creba members on the issuance of certificates of environmental clearance, geological hazard investigation reports, and other requirements for housing projects.

Secretary Michael T. Defensor, HUDCC chair, will discuss any changes in the government's housing policies and requirements being enforced by Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund), National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., National Guaranty Corp. and the National Housing Authority.

Creba vice president for chapters Avelina P. Acuña and former Creba president Domingo D. De Vera will be the emcees for the dialogue with the Cabinet members. HUDCC director Zacarias Abanes and Minda Pantaleon-Ladores, VP for operations, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., will be the rapporteur.

Target houses no pipe dream, say developers

By Charles E. Buban

FOR THIS group of housing developers, delivering 100,000 housing units in two years is not just an empty promise.

In fact, the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association said their members, numbering 281, are finalizing where these housing units are going to come from.

The country's leading national organization of private subdivision and housing developers is in fact collating the pledges that their fellow Private Sector Consultative Council for Shelter members are also delivering. Apart from the SHDA, the PCCS is also composed of other organizations like Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines, Women in Shelter and Its Environment, and Builders Alliance Toward Action.

"We can back up our promised figure and when we meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo this month, we will explain to her excellency where these 100,000 units are coming from," assured Jesus Atencio, SHDA national president. "We'll tell Ms Macapagal how much units are allocated for Luzon, the Visayas, as well as for Mindanao, including the socialized housing that the OSHDP, WISE and Bata will deliver. This is going to be a multisectoral pledging session."

Housing Secretary Michael Defensor recently said the country is suffering from a housing backlog of at least 500,000.

Mixed housing pledges

The 100,000 units will be a mixture of real estate projects to be delivered by small, medium and large developers including publicly listed real estate companies where the big names in the industry belong. "We will have a mixture of real estate housing pledges ranging from socialized to low cost to economic and high end," informed Santiago Ducay, SHDA executive director.

However, Ducay clarified that 70 percent of this total will be for socialized and low-cost housing where most SHDA members are involved in.

The promise of 100,000 units is a position the SHDA has adopted based on its consultation with other PCCS member-organizations. "I believe we are in the position to boast that the SHDA together with the other PCCS member-organizations can deliver this by 2004, after all, we the developers are the ones who will build these units so we know what we can do and how we will do it," added Ducay.

He also reported that the SHDA is now asking its six regional chapters—Bacolod and Cebu in the Visayas; Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Zamboanga City in Mindanao; and Lucena and Metro Manila (where most members are located) in Luzon to finalize the number of units they will be pledging.

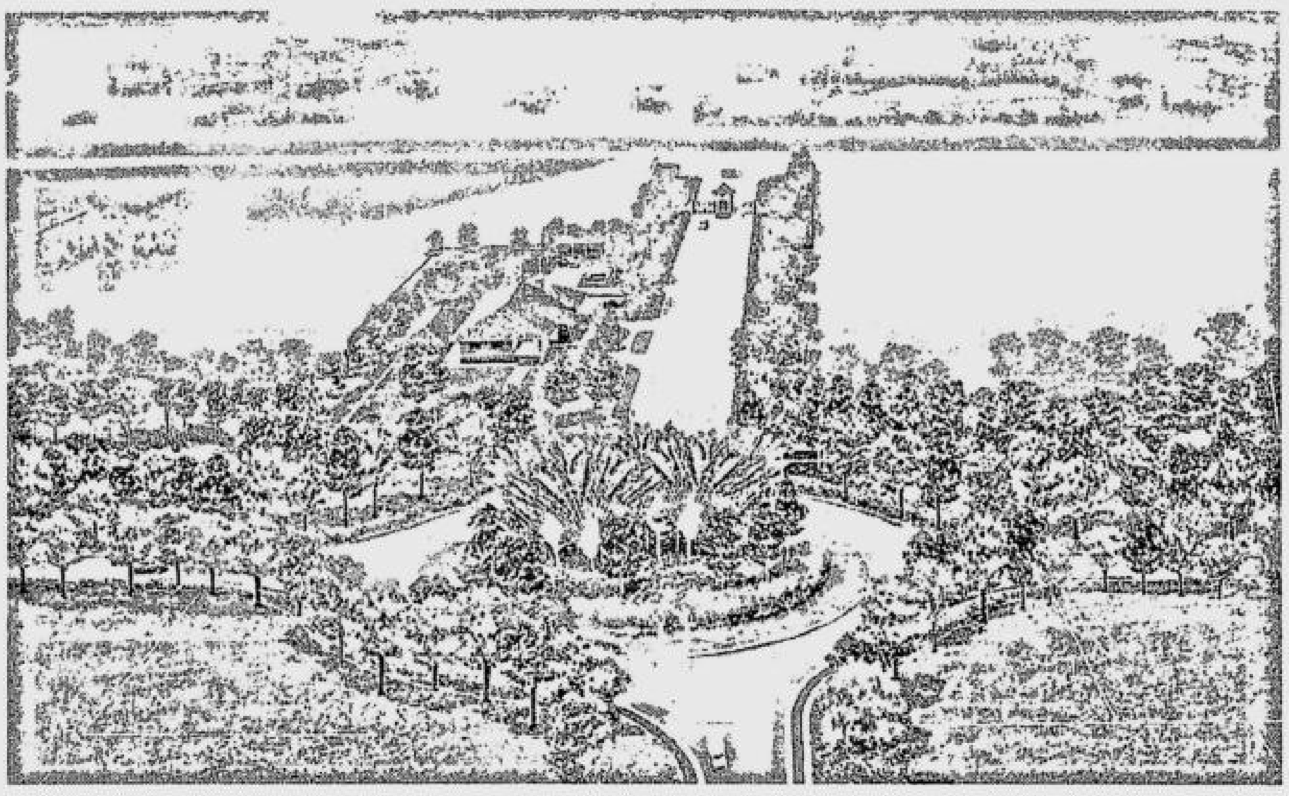
What we require

Atencio said the pledging session will be a good opportunity for the developers to relay to Ms Macapagal the reforms in housing policies that government needs to undertake so SHDA member-developers can have a proper business environment that will enable them to achieve their pledged commitments.

"We need these reforms right now so we are in constant communication with HUDCC chair and Housing Secretary Michael Defensor and with Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza," said Atencio.

Specifically, Atencio would like to discuss with the President how to speed up the processing of pending land cases on conversion and exemption with the Department of Agrarian Reform totaling 16,000 in pipeline cases and 14,000 in litigation cases. The SHDA said that of the country's total land area of 30 million hectares, only 0.11 percent or some 35,314 hectares have been converted to residential purposes from 1979 to 2001.

Other issues to be raised with the President is the relaxing of lending policies of Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) and faster processing of development permits at the local government level.



THE MOUNT Malarayat Farm Estate boasts of an unimpeded vista of Mt. Makiling to the northeast and Mt. Malarayat to the southeast.

Active Realty maintains balance between nature and development

ONE'S home in a place surrounded by trees is an enduring, romantic dream of the fatigued, stressed-out city dweller. This may finally turn into a reality with the Mount Malarayat Country Estates in Malvar, Batangas, which is soon to start development.

Being developed by the Active Realty and Development Corp. on a sprawling 550,891 square-meter property owned by Goram Development Corp., the "country estates" is meant, according to Active Group vice chairperson Maria Cristina Turalba, to be home, or hobby for weekend farmers who long for a getaway place where they can enjoy the bliss of clean air and greenery after a week's work in urban centers."

As a getaway place, the country estates are not really that far away. The project is a pleasant, unstressful 60-minute drive by car along the South Expressway on a weekend, a trip that has been considerably cut short by the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (Star) that diverges from the national highway in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Environmental haven

Mount Malarayat Country Estates is located a few meters away from the town hall of Malvar (a quaint town named after the revolutionary hero) and southeast of the center of Tanauan City. A certified environmental planner, Turalba says, "The project will be an environmental haven in the eastern area which at the moment has as many as four large industrial estates, seven if you consider the whole of Batangas."

She also points out that the smoothly sloping grounds, with an unimpeded vista of Mt. Makiling to the northeast and Mt. Malarayat to the southeast, are fertile volcanic soil hospitable to coconuts, mangoes and other fruit trees, citrus and vegetables and flowering plants. Turalba, who strongly believes in respecting and not disturbing what she calls the "spirit of the place," also advocates the tenet that "one should not impose on the land what it's not meant to be there."

Commitment

The Mount Malarayat Country Estates is thus committed to keeping the delicate balance between primeval spirit and viable land development. Lot parcels will have a minimum size of 700 sq. m (there are about 285 saleable lots), to allow geberous area for the houses and an almost unlimited garden space.

"We are very confident about our market," says Turalba. These are the people who yearn to see green and breathe oxygen-filled air, the corporate executives and professional entrepreneurs residing in the metropolis, the *balikbayans* who will eventually retire in the country, as well as institutions interested in propagating their environmental or back-to-nature interests or causes."

But don't be mistaken: These are not rustic, backwoods, farmhouses. Mount Malarayat Country Estates is a sophisticated residential subdivision, with concrete roads, an underground drainage system, a centralized water distribution and irrigation system, overhead electrical distribution system, and such amenities as a country club and a man-made lake. In addition, each lot owner has the right to use the Club Malarayat Country club facilities, children center, sports facilities, the equestrian center and hotel located in nearby Lipa City.

The country estate lies close to a surrounding network of commercial centers (including the malls in Lipa 10 kilometers away and some 27 km away from the Enchanted Kingdom), hospitals (including the Sto. Tomas General Hospital, about 5 km away), and schools (among them De La Salle in Lipa, Letran in Biñan and UP Los Baños).

Good 'feng shui'

But the hustle and bustle of modern-day centers drifts away the moment you enter the Mount Malarayat Country Estates from the national road in Malvar. "What immediately strikes your eye upon entering is the placid lake and beyond it, shrouded in clouds, the splendid Mt. Makiling," says Cristina Turalba, waxing romantic. She adds: "Water, at the entrance, is good feng shui."

Mount Malarayat Country Estates indeed had good feng shui in good measure.

Gov't housing with a difference

EMPIRE East Land Holdings Inc. brings of experience and expertise in building successful housing communities for middle-income families to its latest development called UN Gardens, a six-tower, P194-million residential project now rising on a 6,683-square-meter premium property at the corner of Cristobal and Huseng Batute Streets near United Nations Avenue in Paco, Manila.

A joint venture of Empire East and the Manila city government, UN Gardens comprises six medium-rise condominium buildings of contemporary design and featuring spacious one- to three-bedroom units priced from P500,000 to less than P1million per unit. It is targeted for completion within two years.

Track record

"The city government of Manila has taken note of Empire East's track record for superior housing concepts and on-time project delivery. With our UN Gardens development, employees of the city government and other government agencies will soon own their dream homes and enjoy conveniences not found in other government housing projects," said Empire East vice president Robert Edwin Lim.

Among its amenities and features are a children's playground, landscaped park and gardens, entrance gate with guardhouse and open-space parking areas, in addition to individual electric and water meters, provision for telephone lines per unit, water cistern and overhead tank for each tower.

Strategic location

UN Gardens is strategically located near the Manila City Hall and other government offices, leading commercial and business centers, educational institutions and hospitals such as the Paco Public Market, SM Manila, Robinsons Place Manila, Unilever Philippines, Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils., Adamson University, Paco Catholic Schools, La Concordia College and the Philippine General Hospital.

It is also accessible to major road arteries such as Taft Avenue, President Quirino Avenue and the South Superhighway.

With employees of the Manila City government and other government agencies as its target homeowners, UN Gardens offers flexible financing packages from Pag-Ibig and a number of private lending institutions. Empire East also makes available a very affordable payment scheme offering an extended down payment of up to 20 months without interest.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Realty seminar for brokers

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate will conduct a comprehensive real estate seminar (CRES) that should be taken for a complete preparation for the broker's licensure examination to be supervised by the Department of Trade and Industry on Nov. 24. For Makati City, the seminar is scheduled on Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Nov. 9 and 16, from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m., at 2/F Joni's Bakeshop, Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) corner Paseo de Roxas.

To lecture on the subjects prescribed by the DTI are experts and authorities in their respective fields. They are engineer Enrico S. Cruz, a licensed real estate consultant and first and eighth placer in the realty appraisers and brokers board exam, respectively; lawyer Dennis Tablizo; lawyer Rex Enrico V. Cruz III of La Salle; Lena Vergara of HLURB; and lawyer Ma. Peaches Mesina-Cruz of the Court of Tax Appeals.

The CRES will cover DTI rules and regulations, real estate finance, economics and accounting, national code of ethics, subdivision development, problems on taxation, problem solving with E-VAT, site verification and survey, legal aspects of sale, mortgage and lease, fundamentals of property ownership, guide on Pag-Ibig housing loans, CARL with Republic Act 7279 (UDHA), HLURB rules with ecology and zoning, condominium concepts, documentation and registration, and real estate brokerage practice.

For details, call 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Pareb national confab

FOCUSING on critical cooperation and collaboration with primary stakeholders in the real estate industry, the Philippine Association of Realtors Boards Inc. (Pareb) will hold its 42nd annual national convention and election on Oct. 17-19 at Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City.

Adopting as theme "Realtors: The Vital Link," organizers led by Pareb national president Luis Melchor V. Serquiña, senior vice president Ma. Theresa Bernadette L. Antonio, who is convention chair, and VP-NCR Meliza B. Prudente, co-chair, said the event will draw delegates from key cities and provinces around the country.

Highlights of the convention include talks by industry leaders and officials of the housing and realty sectors, business updates by resource speakers, proclamation of the Most Popular Lady Realtor, sports competition, fellowship and local board presentations. Election of 2003 Pareb officers and directors will cap the event.

Pareb is the premier and largest realty service organization in the country with about 1,500 realty practitioners who are brokers, appraisers, consultants, owners-developers and other realty professionals from 40 constituent member boards.

For more details, call up the Pareb secretariat at 723-1197 or 723-4685, e-mail to pareb@broline.com or visit the website www.pareb.com.ph.

Squatting bane to development

YOU might not know it, but there are squatters not only in Metro Manila but in other places in the provinces as well.

The Urban Housing and Development Act of 1992 places the responsibility on local government units, beginning with the barangay, to prevent the construction of illegal dwelling units or structures within their respective localities. In fact, Section 30 of this Act even penalizes just to allow, tolerate or abet the construction of such illegal structures.

Notwithstanding this, local government units appear to be powerless to stem the tide of marauding squatter families. Maybe one reason is the numbers involved for election purposes. Another may be the scarcity of resettlement sites and the costs involved in the relocation of squatters.

"No man should be a squatter in his own country," so says the battle cry of crusading groups. But the reality is that help, especially from government, should come and education should be part of it.

Poverty is no excuse for not owning a piece of land where to plant the seeds of a true home. Contrary however to the attitude of our poor countrymen without dwelling places yet, nothing nowadays should come free. Maybe one reason, after a while when land is given free to beneficiaries, the said land is sold to other interested families is precisely that the awarded beneficiaries did not feel "having worked for it," and so it is an "easy come, easy go" thing as far as they are concerned. Then, they move to another place, put up their *barong-barong* (shanties) and wait for another payday.

In spite of the provisions of the Urban Development and Housing Act (Udha) of 1992, where various provisions to secure shelter in many ways for homeless families are stated, it is a fact that whenever idle land lies sprawling, preferably owned by government, it becomes an open invitation to professional squatters.

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BUSINESS

Sept. budget deficit seen hitting ₱160B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S budget deficit probably hit P160 billion last month, up from P144 billion in August, on huge debt payments normally done in September, persons familiar with the matter said yesterday.

This early, market experts are betting that the deficit will widen to at least P160 billion by year's end.

Government sources agreed that the deficit probably grew in September largely on account of higher spending due to interest payments.

A P160-billion deficit in September would already be equivalent to 4 percent of gross domestic product—the monetary value of all the goods and services produced by an economy over a specified period—this year.

A treasury official of a large bank predicted that the budget deficit would swell to P160 billion even if the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs hit their targets this year.

"If these agencies would continue to post shortfalls, then the deficit would be much bigger," according to a government source.

Seasonally, he said, interest payments rise in September, but the government is hoping the number will go down to a more tolerable level in the fourth quarter.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government could still finance a budget deficit of up to P185 billion this year given its cash position.

"Ideally, we can finance up to P170-billion deficit this year but we can increase this flexibility to as much as P185 billion," Edeza told reporters after the government's regular treasury bill auction.

He said with local and foreign borrowings, the government could safely finance a deficit of about P170 billion. Proceeds of a recent $300-million five-year eurobond float has given the government cash flexibility, he added.

"The proceeds of the recent foreign borrowing would be equivalent to P15 billion, so we could add that to P170 billion and we would have enough to finance a deficit as wide as P185 billion," he said.

Edeza said the Bureau of Treasury was expecting the government's surplus cash to hit P45 billion around the end of October, from P40 billion currently.

At the end of the first eight months of the year, the budget deficit reached P144.03 billion, exceeding the P130-billion original deficit target this year.

The government has set a new target of 4 percent of GDP for the budget deficit this year, or about P155 billion, according to market estimates.

Edeza also told reporters the government was planning to issue P2 billion of 10-year treasury bonds on Oct. 15 and P1 billion of 20-year bonds soon after.

T-bill yields flat

THE AVERAGE yield to maturity of the benchmark 91-day treasury bill remained unchanged yesterday, as there were no compelling leads to propel bids strongly in either direction.

The 91-day tenor fetched an average rate of 5.221 percent against 5.223 percent at its previous auction on Sept. 16.

T-bills are debt obligations of a government, backed by the credit and taxing power of a country, regarded as having no risk of default. T-bills do not pay a fixed interest rate.

These are issued through a competitive bidding process at a discount from par. For example, one may be able to purchase a six-month T-bill at P9,600. In six months, the buyer, depending on the rates, may receive P10,000, a return of P400.

Traders noted that the cash-rich banking system would ensure bids were kept in check, even as some anxiety began to creep back into the market over the country's swelling budget deficit.

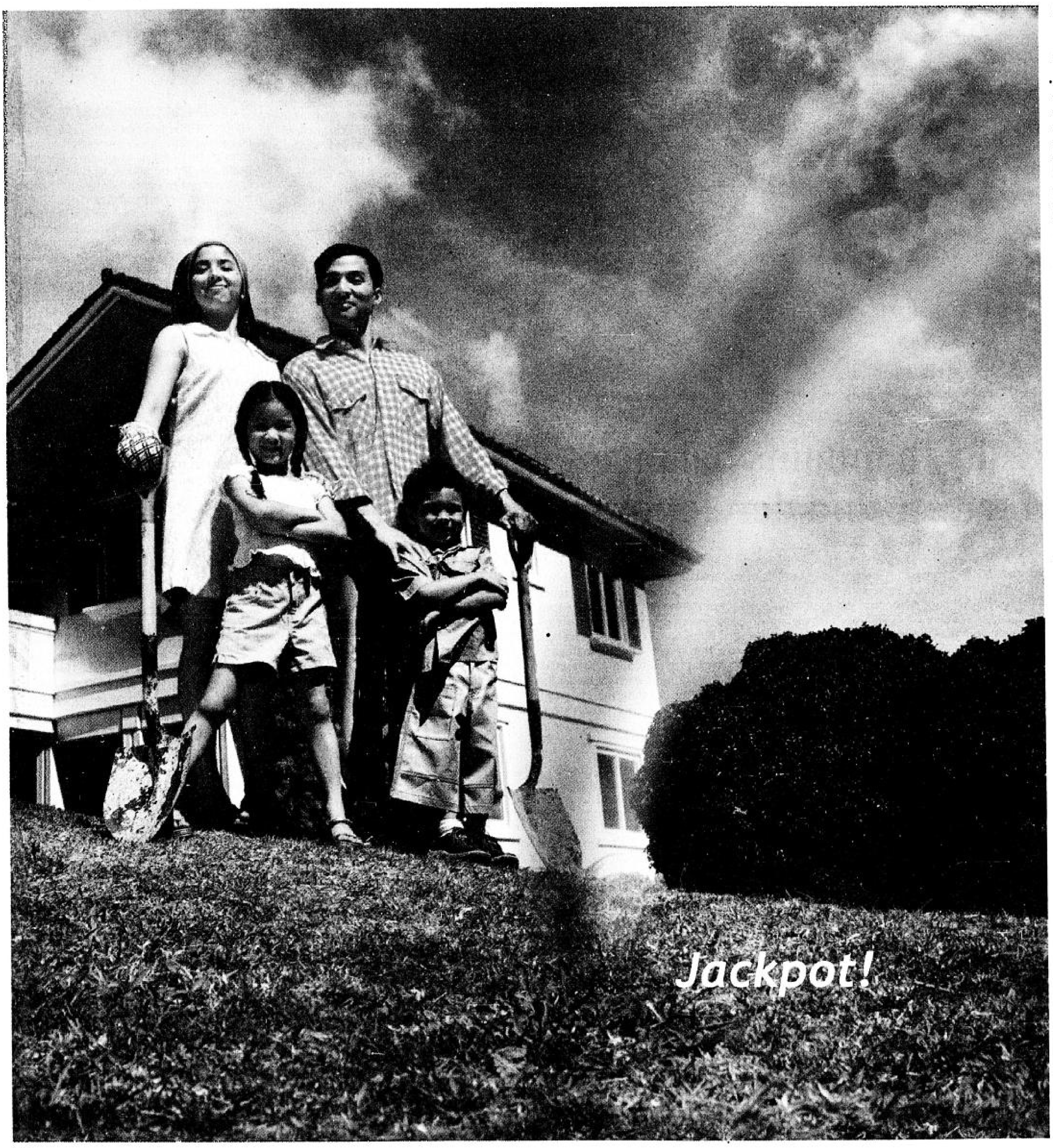
RP seen using less oil

THE PNOC-Energy Development Corp. said yesterday the country's dependence on oil for power generation could go down further as German lender Kreditstanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW) has offered to finance $120 million in steamfield and power plant projects.

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol said in an interview KfW has offered to fund the development of the proposed Palinpinon 3 geothermal power plant in Negros Oriental.

"Development of the 20-megawatt Palinpinon 3 would cost about $40 million," Apostol said.

The former Leyte congressman added that PNOC-EDC was also arranging possible financing of the project from the Development Bank of the Philippines. *Ronnel W. Domingo*



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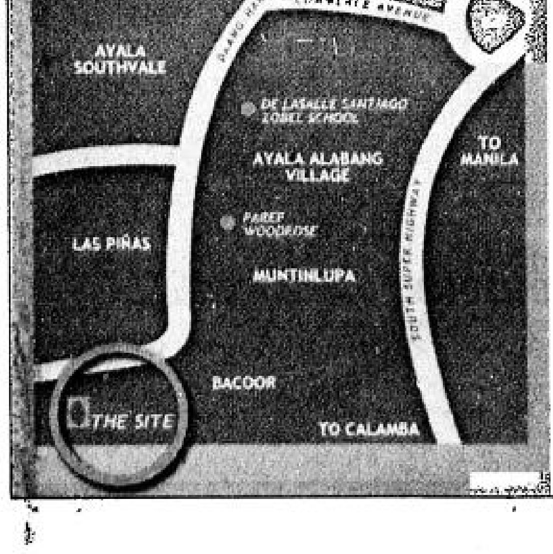

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Preventing yoga injuries

A STRONG and flexible body, a calm mind, increased concentration and focus, improved athletic performance, and a better quality of breathing are what you will reap if everything goes well when you practice yoga. However, yoga done wrongly can give you pulled muscles and aching joints if you are lucky, and surgery or a permanent disability if you are unlucky. Even if your injuries are minor, they may discourage you from continuing yoga and that's when you really lose out.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

This is the third and last in this column's series on yoga injuries. Although I might sound like a doomsayer, I don't want to scare anyone from trying yoga. I love yoga. It was one of my first loves in fitness. But rather than deny that the potential for injury exists, it is better to confront it and warn people about the risks in the hope that impending injuries will be prevented, and that more people will learn about yoga and enjoy all the benefits I just mentioned and more.

> A simple pose done with proper mental attitude is more 'yoga' than an advanced pose done mindlessly

Yoga-related injuries occur because the person is not yet strong or flexible enough to do the pose, is not doing the pose correctly, has an existing physical condition that is made worse by doing certain poses, or has pushed himself far beyond his capabilities.

Commonly injured joints of the body include the neck, shoulders, wrists, lower back and knees. Pulled muscles usually occur in the hamstrings (back of the thighs) and lower back.

Injuries can either be acute or chronic. Acute injuries happen right then and there like a knee "snapping" while doing the lotus pose. Chronic injuries happen overtime and are the result of repetitious microscopic trauma due to poor technique.

Here are some general tips on how to prevent injuries. This is by no means a comprehensive listing.

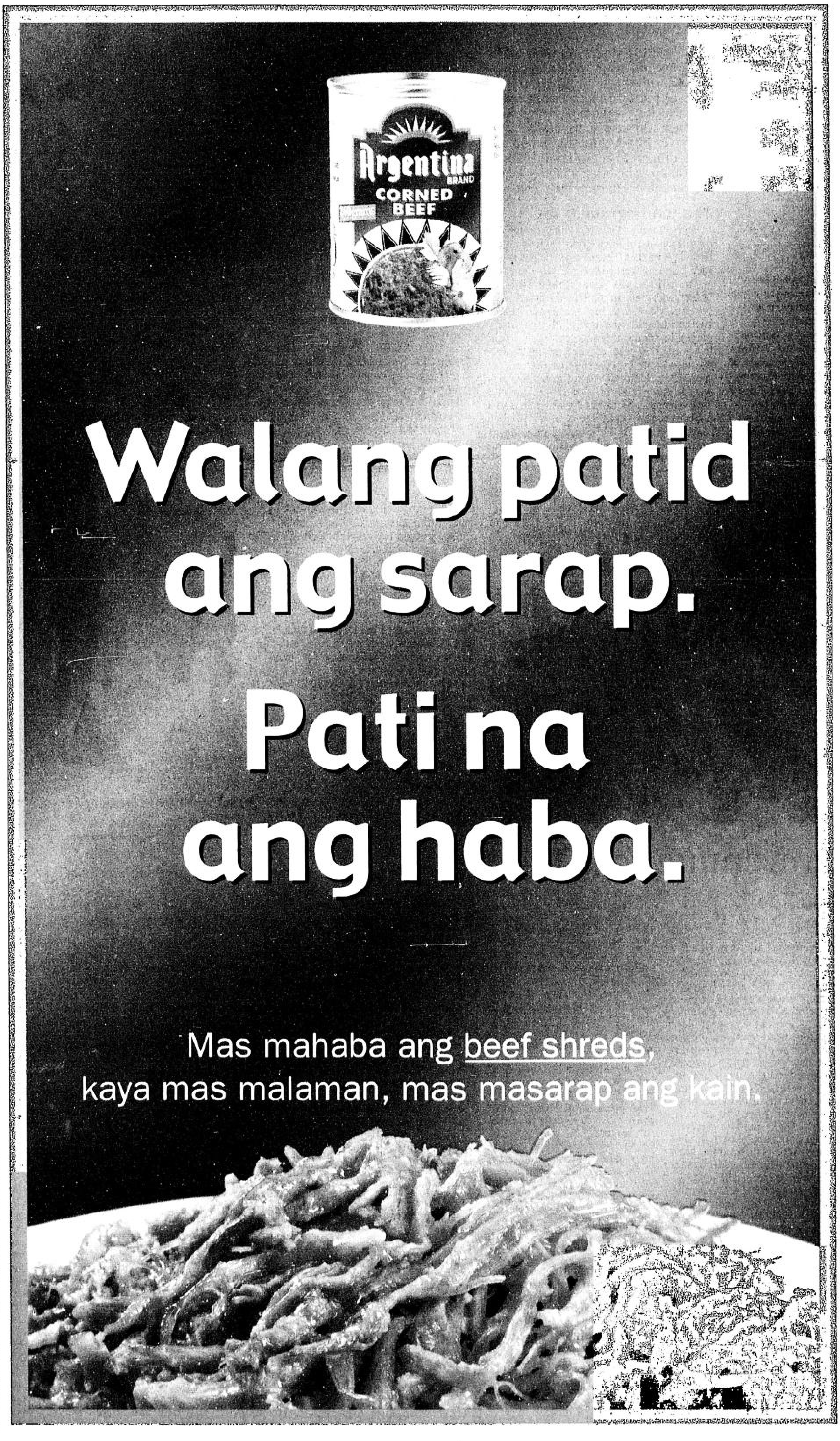
Neck

The plow, shoulder stand and headstand are the three most risky poses for the neck because of the extreme pressure put on that area. Beginners should not attempt these three poses and even intermediate students should only do them under the careful supervision of an experienced instructor.

The plow and shoulder stand force the natural curve in the neck to flatten and can irritate the spinal nerves or push a disk out of alignment. Roger Cole, yoga research scientist and instructor, recommends putting a folded blanket on the shoulders to relieve pressure on the neck.

The headstand is actually easier on the neck if done properly—meaning the student is using his arms and shoulders to carry the weight of the body. But if the student is not strong enough or does not know how to do the pose properly, then the head and neck partly carry

PREVENTING/ p.C2



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Grandparents-to-be enjoy 'rocky' time in their marriage

A couple spices up their life and marriage with a little adventure

DELING makes her way up the wall called Rockcreation.

AT FIRST glance, Rey and Deling Jacinto seem to be the typical middle-aged couple. Deling likes to putter around in her cactus garden; Rey attends to the family business. On weekends, they go to the mall with their children and have a quiet dinner. In a few months, they'll be grandparents—and they're looking forward to pampering their first *apo*.

The 'underground' life

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, the couple heads to Play Underground at the parking level 3 of Power Plant Mall, and goes rock-climbing. Yes, rock-climbing.

The couple has always been athletic. Deling, who grew up combing the beaches her parents loved, was into water sports like swimming and windsurfing. Rey regularly played badminton, tennis, pelota and golf. But in their 30 years of marriage, they rarely exercised together. Deling disliked racquet sports; Rey didn't enjoy doing laps. While they were keeping themselves in shape, it would have been a lot more fun if they could find a hobby that they could share.

Then Rey started rock climbing with his *barkada* several years ago, eventually becoming a regular at Play Underground—the newest ultimate playground for alternative sports, extreme games, and special events right at the heart of Makati. There, he and his friends would climb an artificial wall called Rockreaction—36-feet high and touted to be the highest in the city to date. Every time his wife would watch him, he'd encourage her to join. "This is fun...*kaya mo 'to*... just give it a try." After all, Rockreaction was designed to both challenge expert climbers and train beginners. It was the perfect way for him and Deling to explore the sports together.

Deling accepted his challenge, and now the two of them rarely miss their thrice-a-week date with adventure. "We spend the whole afternoon in Rockwell's Play Underground, then talk about our session over dinner. We analyze our strength, our strategies—what techniques we can use, how we can make the next climb a better one," says the couple.

REY (right) belays Deling as she climbs up. Belaying is tightening or loosening the rope tied to the harness around the waist of the climber as the person goes up or down. With the couple is another rock climber and friend, Pong Padilla.

New perspectives

Rey and Deling have proven that no one's too old to spice up their life (and their marriage!) with a little adventure. They have fun not just because of the thrill of scaling a wall. "We are learning things about each other, and ourselves," says Deling.

During her initial climbs, Deling's fear of heights would often make her freeze mid-climb. She also felt very unsure of herself—what should she do? Where should she put her foot? What was the next step? "Through all of this, my husband remained a very patient teacher. He really helped me," she smiles.

Rey also discovered how persevering his wife was. "She doesn't give up. She keeps on until she finds the proper move or technique," Rey proudly beams. Deling's determination has even amazed their children, who have yet to try rock climbing themselves, although the children indulge in other sports like basketball and scuba diving.

The learning experience continues. Rock-climbing is like a vertical game of chess. Athletes have to plan their progress, consider the best moves, and decide the best possible way to reach the top. It's this mental dimension that attracts many of its aficionados—no two climbs are the same, so there's always something fresh and exciting in each session.

Like many other women, Deling used to participate in aerobics classes—but she soon became bored by the repetitive routines. Play Underground's climbing facilities offer a much more interesting challenge. "I learn something new, grow more confident in my abilities," she says.

The sport has also added new dimensions to the couple's marriage. They spend more time together, and have found "fun" at an age when many others complain of growing bored with each other and themselves. "When we're not rock-climbing, we also have dinner or just talk and go to the mall," says Deling. The convenience of Rockwell makes a big difference—after a fulfilling but tiring climb, they can head to a coffee shop, watch a movie, or browse in the many stores.

Staying fit

Climbing can literally lift your health to new levels. If pursued vigorously, it burns fat while strengthening all the muscles. A person who weights 140 pounds can lose as many as 700 calories in just an hour of climbing. It also improves aerobic capacity, muscle mass and flexibility.

The sport is also not comparable to traditional forms of exercise because it challenges every muscle group. As you pull your weight up an incline of varying degrees, you use muscles that many gym-goers unconsciously ignore. And since your mind is absorbed in the challenge of reaching the top, you're less likely to "fake" the exercise or give in too quickly to tiredness. Simply put, you're having too much fun to notice that you're exercising!

Aside from the danger of falling (which you're protected from by a harness) the highest risk associated with rock-climbing is overuse of limbs. These can be avoided by proper warm-ups. In fact, Rey considers rock-climbing safer than the other sports he's joined. "I stopped playing tennis because it was so strenuous, and there was always this risk of straining the knees and elbows. But even after a hard climb, neither Deling nor I even experience the slightest muscle pains. In fact, our bodies have become more flexible!"

Rock climbing is also the most "democratic" of all sports. Contrary to popular belief, men aren't "better" at it because of their strength, since what women may lack in muscle mass, they make up for by being lighter.

REY climbs the wall for advance climbers.

REY assists Deling in putting on her harness.

Up to the challenge?

Play Underground offers a Basic Rock Climbing Training Program. Lectures include an introduction to rock climbing and information on gear and techniques. The program will conclude with a competition between participants.

Play Underground also offers new and exciting activities not found anywhere else. Rebound is an innovative and safe way to have fun on a trampoline. Participants are harnessed to bungee cords so they can jump as high as 30 feet and twist, turn and do somersaults—without fear of being thrown out. People can also arrange to play fun team-building games like Kaizen Card, Pipeline and Paintball Team challenge. Call 898-0273.

Preventing yoga injuries

From page C1

the body's weight and the disks and vertebrae are compressed.

The New England Journal of Medicine recently published a study about the connection between certain yoga poses and a rare kind of stroke called "arterial dissection." The plow, shoulder stand and headstand were pointed out because of the extreme pressure they put on the neck, while the extended side angle and triangle were highlighted because they could result in sudden neck movements. Before you get terrified of doing these poses, yoga was not the only activity cited; so were chiropractic adjustments, hard sneezes or coughs, rapidly tossing your head back to swallow a pill or chug a shot of tequila, and getting a shampoo at the beauty salon sink. The study also reiterated that this kind of stroke was rare, and yoga was only involved in a small number of cases. But better to be safe than sorry, so make sure to practice good technique when doing these poses.

Shoulders

People who cannot straighten their arms over their head are at risk of shoulder injuries because this means that they have "round" shoulders that are rotated inward. This is due to right chest muscles and weak upper back muscles. Since many yoga poses require "open" shoulders or externally rotated shoulders, this misalignment can cause pinched nerves or irritated tendons.

If you have the rounded shoulder syndrome, concentrate on stretching your chest muscles while strengthening your upper back before you proceed on to more advanced yoga poses.

Wrists

Yoga can strengthen the wrists and prevent carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS), a painful nerve condition due to swollen wrist joints. However if you already have the early stages of CTS, your situation can get even worse by doing poses that require you to put your body weight on your wrists. Even if you don't have CTS, your wrist can still get injured if you don't apply equal pressure to all "four corners" of your palm in poses like downward facing dog or the plank.

Lower back

If forward bends, backward bends and twists are not done correctly, the lower back pays the price. Cole counsels students to elongate the spine before bending to maximize disk space between the vertebrae. Bend forward by tilting the pelvis bones at the hip joints, not by pushing or pulling on the spine. Bend backwards by lifting the chest and pushing the hips forward to prevent overworking the lower back.

When twisting, make sure the effort begins in your core muscles. Do not use your arms to bind you into the pose until your muscles have done the actual twisting first. The muscular effort to get into the twist is called your active range of mobility and flexibility. The little bit more that you can get into the twist after you have bound yourself is called your passive range of motion. There should not be a big difference between the two. If you use your arms first to pull you or another outside force like a teacher to push into position, you might go much beyond your active range and hurt yourself. The same thing happens when doing upward facing dog and cobra. Initiate the movement with your back muscles before pushing against the floor with your hands.

Knees

Cole says that the three most dangerous things you can do in yoga is to flatten the neck in a shoulder stand or plow, push or pull a stiff back into a forward or backward bend, and force the knees into a lotus position.

If you don't have the flexibility in the hip joint to bring your bent legs into a fully open position (soles of the feet together, knees touching the floor at the side of your hips), you can damage the knee joint when you try to maneuver your feet and ankles into the lotus. Specifically, you can tear the medial meniscus (cartilage on the inside part of the knee) and overstretch the lateral collateral ligaments (connective tissue at the outside part of the knee). You should definitely not be doing the lotus if you have a prior history of knee or ankle injuries.

Ligaments at the back of the knee can also be hurt if you try to over-straighten your knee to the point that it curves backward. When doing lunges, keep the knee in line with the ankle, not going past the toes.

Inverted poses

Any pose where the head is lower than the heart has the tendency to raise blood pressure. However, poses like downward facing dog, forward bend, expanded leg pose will only do so mildly, while shoulder stand and headstand will increase blood pressure the most. People with cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, glaucoma, detached retina, extreme nearsightedness, ear or sinus infections should definitely avoid doing the shoulder stand and headstand and should get their doctor's clearance about doing the other mild inversion poses.

Last words of wisdom

If you keep on comparing your performance to that of other people, you are not doing yoga. You are doing what someone has called "sophisticated stretching." Remember this is supposed to be about the mind-body connection. How can your mind connect to your body when it is focused on someone else's body? That Ms Super Yoga, who is the object of your envy, probably has a rubber band for a spine courtesy of her genes, while you have inherited a spine that is less flexible. That doesn't make you less worthy a person than her. Also, she isn't getting more benefits than you.

According to Cole, "It is better to practice a partial pose with good alignment than a full pose with poor alignment."

Gary Kraftsow, author of "Yoga for Wellness" and head of the American Viniyoga Institute, puts it another way. "Adapt the form of the pose to the person and anyone can receive the functional benefits regardless of structural limitations." You are getting as much of a benefit from the modified pose that you are doing, as the human pretzel beside you who is doing the more advanced level.

Another yoga instructor once said, "There are no contraindicated poses in yoga, only contraindicated people," meaning that even the most convoluted pose can be safe if the person is anatomically suited for it. But a simple pose can do you harm if you have physical limitations.

Lawrence Biscontini, fitness and yoga instructor, says that a simple pose done with awareness of breath and proper mental attitude is more "yoga" than an advanced pose done mindlessly.

And while I am no yoga expert, I am going to throw in my two cents worth. If you never go slightly beyond your comfort zone, you'll never improve. But if you jump in head first, you can go way beyond what your body is used to and get injured. So I tell my students to "test the waters" just like they would proceed cautiously when entering a hot spring. Challenge yourself, but only a little at a time, and know when to back off when the water starts to get too hot.

The first Philippine Parenting Convention will be held Oct. 26-29 at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, Makati. The convention will tackle various parenting topics and issues through an interactive exposition and simultaneous workshops. For more details, visit www.philippineparenting.org or call Rizza at 433-0387.

Watch "In Fitness & in Health" on Studio 23, Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 a.m.

For questions or past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com.

SPRINT Fade

Footwear named brand of the year

MERRELL Performance Footwear, respected for its design innovation and distinctive outdoor, athletic-outdoor and casual footwear, was awarded Brand of the Year for Excellence in Design by Footwear Plus magazine.

Starting as a small line of handmade hiking boots, Merrell now offers outdoor performance footwear that are known for cutting-edge technology and innovative designs, ranging from hiking shoes to multisports and sandals.

The company earned its place in footwear history with the introduction of its AfterSport shoes, featuring the widely popular Merrell Jungle Mocs and Slides. This footwear was designed to be worn after a day of hiking, biking, skiing, or running, when comfort and slip-on features are a must.

The AfterSport shoes combine many of the performance features of Merrell's technical footwear products with the comfort and fit of a slip-on. Consumers around the world have taken to the mocs and slides, and they remain some of the most influential products in the footwear industry today.

In the Philippines, Merrell is fast becoming the footwear of choice of the growing number of outdoor sport professionals and enthusiasts. Recently, Merrell provided its Chameleon hiking shoes to members of Team Iligan Pride, a mountaineer group from Iligan City, which placed second in the Habagat Adventure Race.

Merrell Performance Footwear is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by FootAction International, and is available at selected SM department stores, Fusion outlets (Festival Mall Alabang and Glorietta) and sporting goods and retail stores nationwide.

CHAMELEON Stretch

GBX introduces its 2002 Fall collection. The mid-cut Chas wrestler boot is wrapped in rich nappa leather. The Ripple, the hottest sole in the market today, can take on the hard asphalt jungle anytime. Designed in Madeira sand, black/gray and navy/gray color schemes, Chas combines functionality and modern fashion at its best. The McNamara double gore slip-on gives a superior foothold and is matched with a translucent rubber gum sole. It features distressed nappa leather paired with a smooth grained upper for a unique finish. The GBX Parker and Quincy sandals are a tough combination of leisure and class in a comfortable form. Available in heel strap and open-heel styles, these nappa leather creations are the perfect weekend shoes. GBX 2002 Fall collection is available at GBX/26 Red boutiques in all major SM and Robinsons Malls, Landmark, Rustan's, Crossings and Cinderella department stores, Keri-Oi and Athlete's Foot stores.

Moms and daughters run for a cause

FOR QUALITY bonding, moms and daughters have many activities that they can do together. From shopping, enjoying relaxing foot spas, experimenting with hair color, having gourmet lunches to attending culinary or art classes—the choices are countless. No matter what the activity is, the end result is that mom and daughter get to know each other better, have fun together, and graduate to being "chums."

On Oct. 6, 6:30 a.m., at the CCP complex grounds, global beauty company Avon gives mothers and daughters a chance to run together for a cause with the "Me and My Mom Against Breast Cancer" 3K Fun Run/Walk. This special event is co-presented by Avon's very own Teen Advisory Council, a group of 13 exceptional and aspirational female teenage students from different private schools in Metro Manila.

"Breast cancer is the No. 1 killer among women. We are very happy and proud that our own Teen Advisory Council has joined Avon in this worthwhile cause. This event is really about the teens making a stand against cancer for their moms and for women everywhere," Malu Dy Buncio, general manager of Avon Cosmetics Inc., says.

The race is open to women of all ages, weather professionals or beginners. Shirts will be given to the first 1,000 finishers. Special prizes await top runners as well as top mother-daughter tandems. Registration forms are available at Run and Compete Enterprise at tel. 727-9987. Registration fee is P75. Proceeds will go to the PGH Breast Care Center.

"Me and My Mom Against Breast Cancer" is in partnership with the Philippine Cancer Society Inc. and Run and Compete Enterprise.

Ballroom dance party

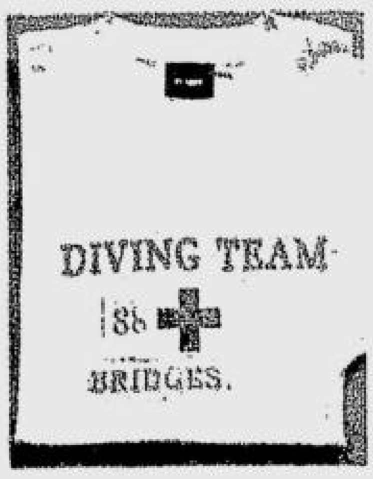
BODYBASIC fitness center will have a one-night party as a special offering to its loyal members. They can enjoy the night with their dance instructor and free cocktails. Members will only pay P150 and nonmembers, P200.

Bodybasic is located at the upper lobby of the Century Park Sheraton Hotel. It offers aerobics, martial arts, dance class, steam/sauna, Jacuzzi, massage, skin care, foot reflexology, swimming pool and pro-shop.

Call 524-9670 or 528-5894.

Sports apparel for a tough lifestyle

THE MISSING LINK
bridges

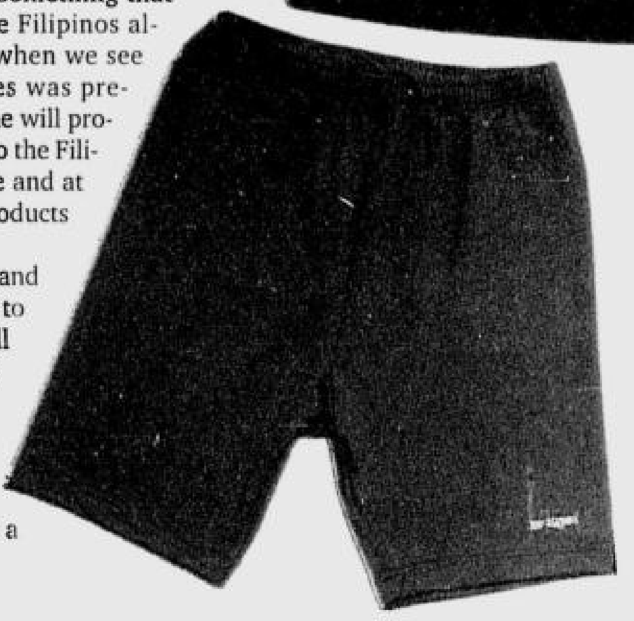


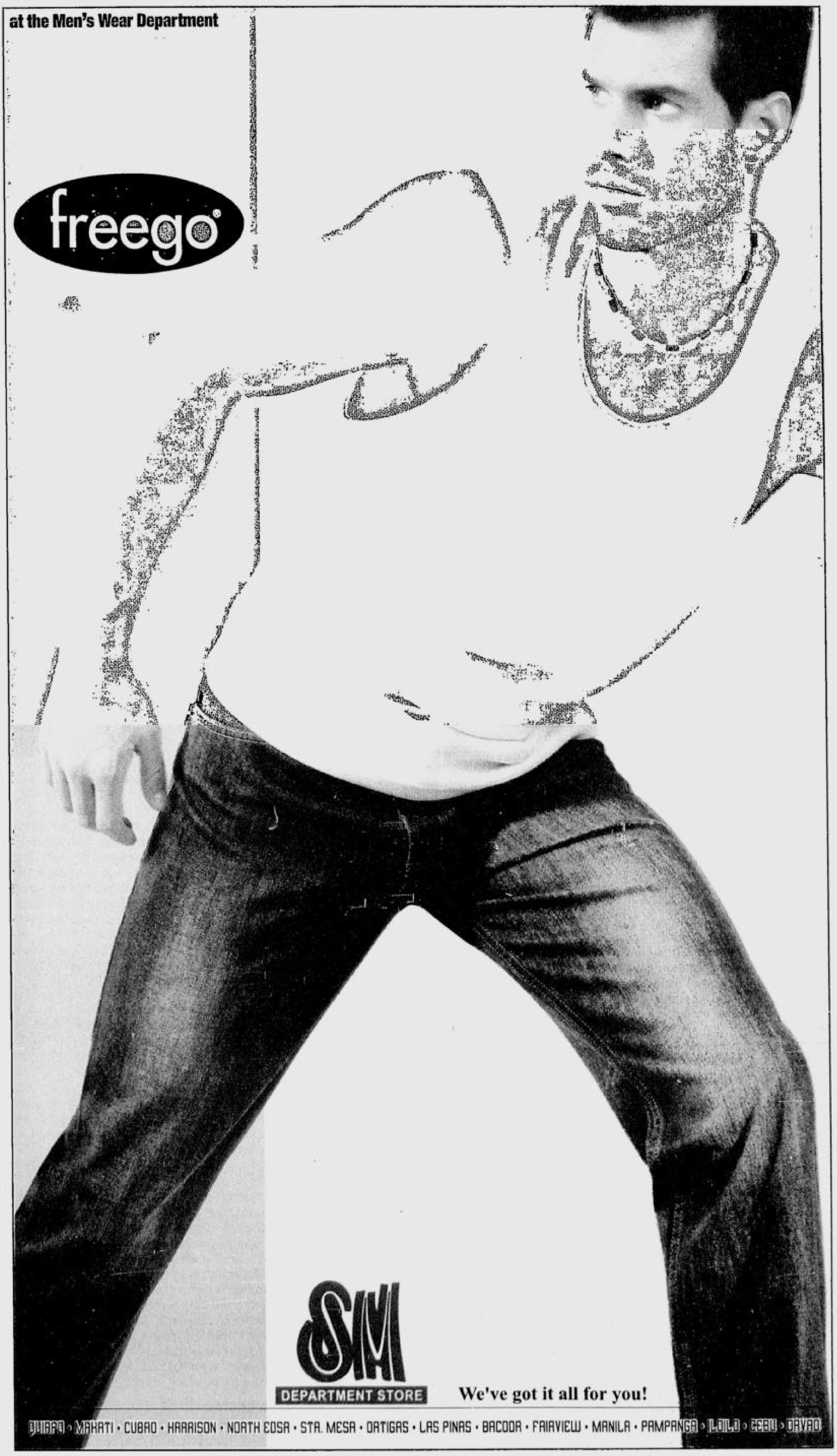
IF you think nothing beats foreign brands when it comes to lifestyle and sports apparel, look again.

All set to take the market by storm is Bridges, a Filipino-made sports and lifestyle apparel that will give popular international brands a run for their money in terms of quality, workmanship and material.

"One thing about Filipinos is that they have good taste," said Sonny Nebres, president and managing director of Lynx, makers of the Bridges line. "It's something that makes us stands out. We Filipinos always know a good buy when we see one. That's what Bridges was precisely created for. This line will produce apparel that caters to the Filipinos' sense of good taste and at the same time keep its products within their reach."

This authentic lifestyle and sports brand is committed to creating products that will pamper Filipinos in terms of performance, comfort and durability, products that are bound to enhance each individual's pursuit of sports as a lifestyle.

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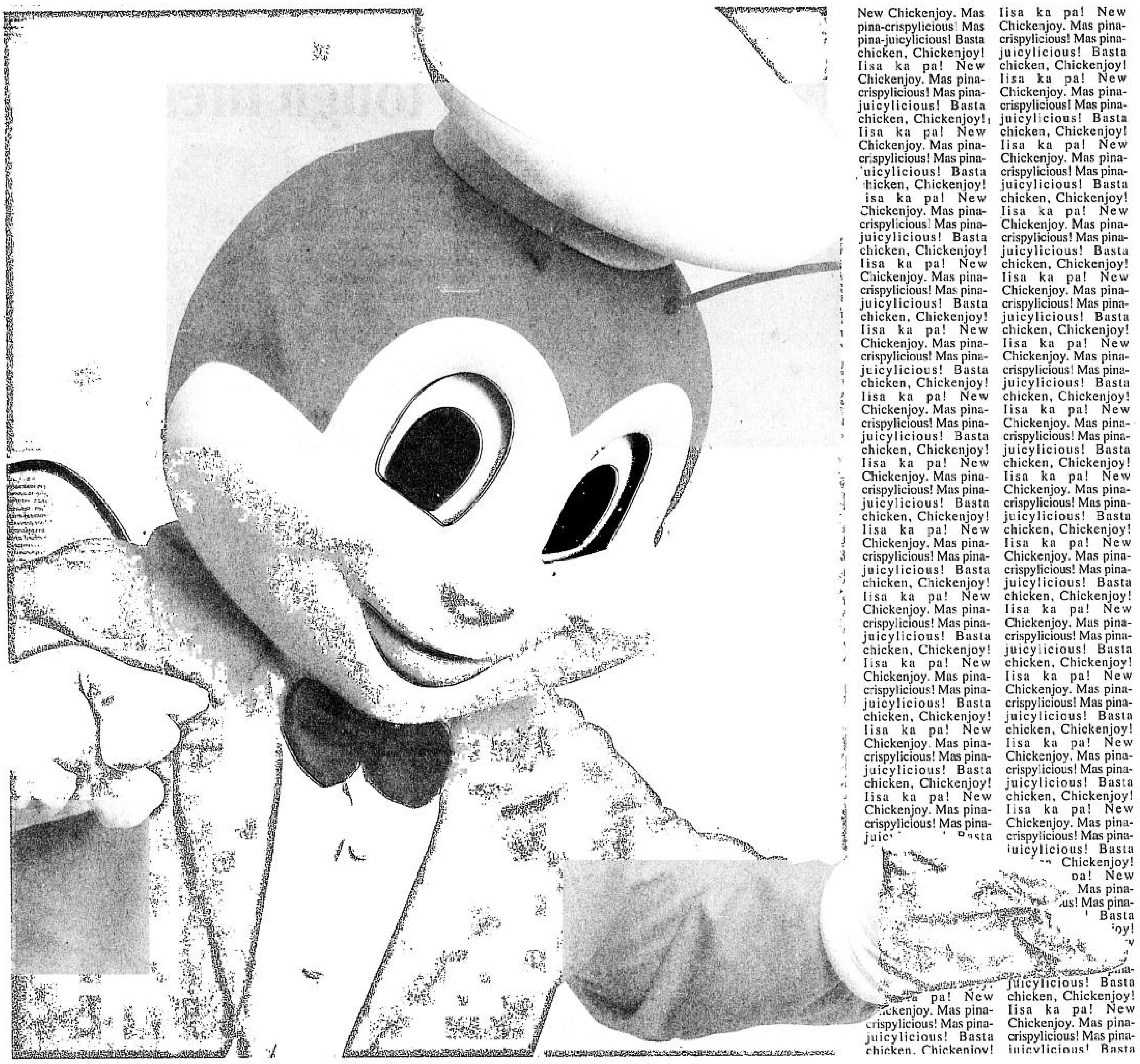

New Chickenjoy. Mas pina-crispylicious! Mas pina-juicylicious! Basta chicken, Chickenjoy! Iisa ka pa! New Chickenjoy. Mas pina-crispylicious! Mas pina-juicylicious! Basta chicken, Chickenjoy! Iisa ka pa! New Chickenjoy. Mas pina-crispylicious! Mas pina-juicylicious! Basta chicken, Chickenjoy! Iisa ka pa! New Chickenjoy. Mas pina-crispylicious! Mas pina-juicylicious! Basta chicken, Chickenjoy! Iisa ka pa! New Chickenjoy. Mas pina-crispylicious! Mas pina-juicylicious! Basta chicken, Chickenjoy! Iisa ka pa! New Chickenjoy. Mas pina-crispylicious! Mas pina-juicylicious! Basta chicken, Chickenjoy! Iisa ka pa! New Chickenjoy. Mas pina-crispylicious! Mas pina-juicylicious! Basta chicken, Chickenjoy!

Postgrad course on urinary incontinence set today

THE CONTINENCE Clinic of St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC), with Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines, one of the leading providers of innovative medical products and services in the country, will hold the first postgraduate course "Urinary Incontinence: Is It Part of Aging?" today, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., at Auditorium 2, 14/F, Cathedral Heights Building Complex, SLMC, QC.

Among the speakers will be Dr. Carmela Lapitan, a consultant at the Division of Urology of the Philippine General Hospital and also the public relations officer of the Continence Foundation of the Philippines. Lapitan will talk about the surgical treatment options for patients and the role of nurses in the management of incontinence.

Incontinence is the inability to control urine so that it becomes a social and hygienic problem. It is a disease that the World Health Organization has recognized as a significant global health issue.

Boost your kid's energy needs

DOES your child complain of terrible headaches and stomachaches after a day in school? Is he too tired and weak to finish his homework when he gets home? If your kid is too exhausted after school, chances are, he doesn't have enough energy to cope with all the activities he must take part in.

So what's the big deal with kids and energy? It's simply this: Your kid needs enough energy to cope with the physical and mental demands that are thrust on him. School requires a lot of attention and concentration. Your child needs energy to succeed in his school activities, be it listening to the teacher, reading a lesson, studying for a test or participating in sports. Even while simply conversing with friends or having fun, he needs energy.

If your kid lacks the right fuel to get through a tough day at school, he tends to feel weak, lethargic and sluggish. And when this happens, he cannot perform to the best of his potential.

Give him proper nutrition

To make sure your kid is energized throughout the day, he must have proper nutrition by means of a balanced diet.

According to noted sports and clinical nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta, a healthy diet for active kids should comprise a mixture of the major food groups. "A healthy, balanced diet for kids must contain all the nutrients—namely carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and minerals, and essential fats," she said. To make sure your child is getting the right nutrients, follow the food guide pyramid, the Philippine version of which was formulated by Orbeta, which shows the food groups necessary for a healthy diet and how much should be eaten each day. According to her, kids need a variety of foods to get the best nutrition possible. "The more variety, the better," she says.

Carbohydrates group. This group is at the base of the pyramid, signifying the bulk of what your kid should eat every day. That's because this group has all the great sources of carbohydrates, the nutrient that the body uses as its major energy source.

Vitamins and minerals group. They are useful because they have loads of vitamins, like the famous Vitamin C, which, aside from helping prevent the common cold, is also needed to keep your kid's teeth and gums healthy.

The B-vitamin group is a big player in this food group. B-vitamins are found in many fruits and veggies, as well as grains and cereals, bread and root crops. The B-vitamin complex—consisting of thiamin (B1), riboflavin (B2), niacin (B3), pantothenic acid (B5), pyridoxine (B6), biotin (B7), folic acid (B9) and cobolamin (B12)—is crucial in enabling the release of energy. Orbeta emphasizes that your kid should have an adequate supply of B-vitamins to sustain his energy throughout the day. Lack of B-vitamins leads to poor concentration, fatigue, headaches and poor performance in school.

Protein group. This next food group supplies your kid's the super-important nutrients called protein, calcium, iron and magnesium. Protein, which repairs and maintains body tissues and produce antibodies, is important to your kid's growth and health. Calcium is a vital mineral that promotes healthy bones and teeth. Iron is a mineral necessary for making hemoglobin, the red substance in blood that carries oxygen to the tissues of the body. Magnesium is another essential mineral that aids your kid's physical performance, especially during sports and other vigorous activities.

Fat, oils and sweets. These sit at the very top of the pyramid. Even though your kid needs them, he only should have small amounts. Fats also have a necessary role in your kid's diet because they maintain body functions and help in developing his brain and other body organs. Sugar also has nutritive value insofar as it provides quick energy for your kid.

By following the food guide pyramid, you'll be sure to provide the proper nutrients to boost your kid's energy needs!

KIDS must have proper nutrition by means of a balanced and healthy diet.

Let him drink up

When kids are physically active, they get thirsty more easily. Unknown to you, sometimes by the time your kid becomes thirsty, he is already mildly dehydrated. So, it makes sense for him to drink even before he actually becomes thirsty. According to Orbeta, your kid's daily requirement for total amount of liquids is now 9-12 glasses. It is important to meet this requirement. To top off his fluid stores, give your kid lots of healthy beverages, with water as the No. 1 thirst-quencher.

During activity, drink breaks are also essential for your kid. Milk, chocolate drinks and fruit juices are superb thirst-quenchers. Choose beverages that contain proper nutrients. Fruit juices supply vitamins. Milk has calcium that is great for your kid's bones. If your kid is lactose intolerant, you can substitute his milk drink with chocolate drinks that are rich in nutrients. A healthy beverage for your active kid is new improved Milo with Actigen-E. It contains the B-vitamin complex and other essential micronutrients that are so useful for boosting his energy.

Exercise

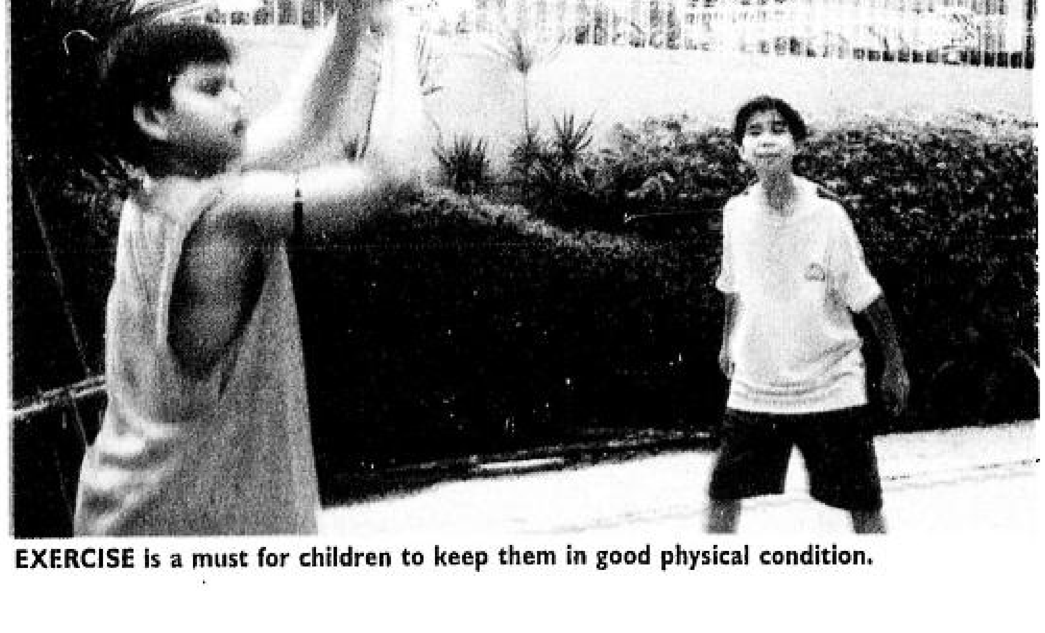
"So what? How does it affect my kid?'" you may be thinking. Well, exercise needs to be a vital part of your kid's life because aside from boosting energy, it helps keep his body fit.

Health experts are finding evidence that regular exercise among kids helps toward a healthy lifestyle that can prevent diseases from occurring later in their lives. Exercise doesn't only help your kid when he gets older; it benefits him even while he's young.

Exercise is a must for your kid because it keeps him in good physical condition, strengthens his hearts and muscles, lowers his body fats and reduces his risks of various diseases. Exercise also provides him a refreshing stress-buster. It is an excellent way to keep the blues at bay. That's because during exercise, the body releases endorphins, which create a happy feeling. Exercise can make your kid feel better about himself. When he is stronger and more physically capable, he feels more confident and more positive about everything.

So, jumpstart your child's energy needs with the right nutrition and encourage him to exercise. You will be rewarded with a happy, healthy and well-adjusted kid who does well—in and out of school.

DR. Sanirose Orbeta, sports and clinical nutritionist



EXERCISE is a must for children to keep them in good physical condition.

Celebration of motherhood

"CELEBRATING Motherhood through Breastfeeding" was attended by over 150 moms and dads eager to learn more about breastfeeding.

Moms in show business, Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, Christine Jacob-Sandejas, Gelli de Belen-Rivera and fashion designer and mother Michi Calica-Sotto candidly shared their personal experiences on motherhood and breastfeeding their children. Their talks reflected the reality faced by many moms: juggling roles as mom, wife and careerwoman, and still being able to nurture their children while doing so. They each shared their personal reasons for choosing to breastfeed, and provided inspiration and motivation for other moms to nurse their babies as well.

Two other speakers, broadcast journalist Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala and guest mom Marilou Racoma, gave their testimonials on choosing breast milk in spite of difficult trials in their lives. Kara, a breast cancer survivor, was committed to nurse her baby even when others discouraged her. Marilou, whose baby is a special child, worked hard to collect breast milk from selfless donors just so her baby would gain the benefits of breast milk even is she was unable to nurse.

In addition to the talks, a special photo exhibit called "Nurturing Moments," with photographs by Pilar Tuason, was on display at the venue. The exhibit featured moms breastfeeding their children, and showed the bonding and closeness mom and baby share during nursing time.

The venue was filled as well with booths showcasing products and services available to moms such as breast pumps, breastfeeding clothes, books, magazines, toys, and so much more.

The talks, exhibit and booths reflected the overall theme of the event—that motherhood should be a celebration of all that we can give and do for our children, one of the most important of which is to breastfeed them and give them the best start in life.

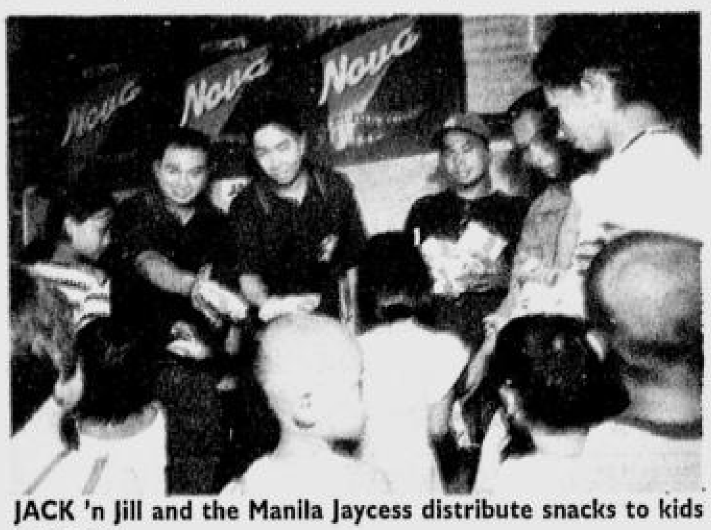
Attendees were treated to goodies given by sponsors and almost everybody went home with a raffle prize.

MARICEL Laxa-Pangilinan, Pat Kho, Jane Cacacho, Rome Kanapi, Janice Villanueva and Candy Cu

CRIS Rosenthal, Gelli de Belen-Rivera and Christine Jacob-Sandejas

Sponsors of the event included Prokids diapers, Medela, Lactacyd Baby Bath, Enfamama, Pfizer, Havin' a Baby Maternity Shop, Maxibear, Mommy Academy, Little Tikes, Domex, Del Monte, the Little Gym, The MUST Handbook, Mommy Pages, Shangri-La Plaza, Baby Magazine, Family Reader, Good Housekeeping, Metro Working Mom, Crossover 105.1, Joey@92.3, www.momsworld.com.ph, www.herword. com.

The event was organized by Mommy Matters Nursingwear, Best Friends in Breastfeeding and the Philippme Association for Childbirth Education.



JACK 'n Jill and the Manila Jaycess distribute snacks to kids in Tondo.

Feeding program for Tondo children launched

IT only takes P7 to feed one starving child a nourishing meal of rice, fish and vegetables. Applying multiplication, 30 malnourished children can be fed with a mere P210. Some more multiplication will tell you that P40,000 should be enough to feed 30 children nutritiously for six months.

"Malnutrition is more prevalent in our country than we previously thought. It seriously affects not just a child's physical growth, but his mental development as well," said Steve Baltao, Jack 'n Jill snacks brand manager. Jack 'n Jill has teamed up with the Manila Jaycees to donate one module to NGO Kabisig. The amount for one module will be enough to ensure that 30 children aged 0-6 years old from Farola in Tondo, Manila, will eat one nutritious meal a day for six months.

The feeding program was launched recently, with Jack 'n Jill giving away snacks to hundreds of emaciated, yet delighted children in Farola. "We were struck by Kabisig's simple, yet effective equation to combat malnutrition. Jack 'n Jill feels we owe it to our little brothers and sisters to nourish them and give them a chance at a good life," said Baltao.

Baltao's friends in the Manila Jaycees could not agree more and hastily volunteered to help provide funding to the feeding project. "Much is expected from those who are given more—we want to show how easy it is to play a role in nation building," said Paul Martirez, Manila Jaycees chair for the feeding program.

Kabisig project coordinators Aimee Carandang Gloria and Joanna Misa were pleased at Jack 'n Jill and the Manila Jaycees' support. "Malnutrition eats away at children's mental development. We cannot afford to let them grow up this way or else we'll end up as a country of uneducated, undernourished and despairing citizens," said Gloria. "It is heartening to have young men like the Jaycees, and brands like Jack 'n Jill help our cause."

The children of Farola are but a miniscule number in the hundreds of thousands of malnourished children in the country. But thanks to Kabisig's simple equation, the Manila Jaycees and socially responsible companies like Jack 'n Jill, these children will one day smile at the prospect of a brighter future.

Call Aimee Carandang Gloria or Joanna Misa at 821-4351 or 824-7404.

Technology lengthens shelf life, preserves nutrients

LIQUID foods can now be stored longer with their natural freshness, aroma and taste almost unchanged with the help of a technology called aseptic processing and packaging.

Aseptic technology, which is at the very heart of Tetra Pak, the leading liquid food processing and packaging company in the world, does not use artificial additives or preservatives to keep products fresh. Tetra Pak has been providing consumers with safe, high-quality liquid food products for 50 years now, using primarily aseptic technology.

The technology takes a step further a process pioneered by the Frenchman Louis Pasteur in the middle of the 19th century. Pasteur used heat to kill harmful microorganisms in milk. The process, called pasteurization, while still widely used to treat milk, juice and many other foods, keeps products fresh under refrigeration for no more than a day or two.

Aseptic technology was developed, taking heat treatment even further, a century after pasteurization, in the early 1960s. It is now used worldwide to treat milk, juice, soups, sauces, wine, cheese and a host of other foods, increasing their shelf life to months instead of just days.

In 1998, the International Institute of Food Technologists voted aseptic technology as 'the most important food science advancement of the 20th century."

Aseptic processing is a fast, intense yet gentle way of using heat to effectively sterilize sensitive liquid foods such as milk.

Milk, for example, is aseptically processed by first quickly heating it to a high temperature—about twice the temperature of pasteurization—in a closed system, for a few seconds, rather than minutes then just as quickly, cooling it to room temperature. This heating process is called Ultra High Temperature (UHT) treatment.

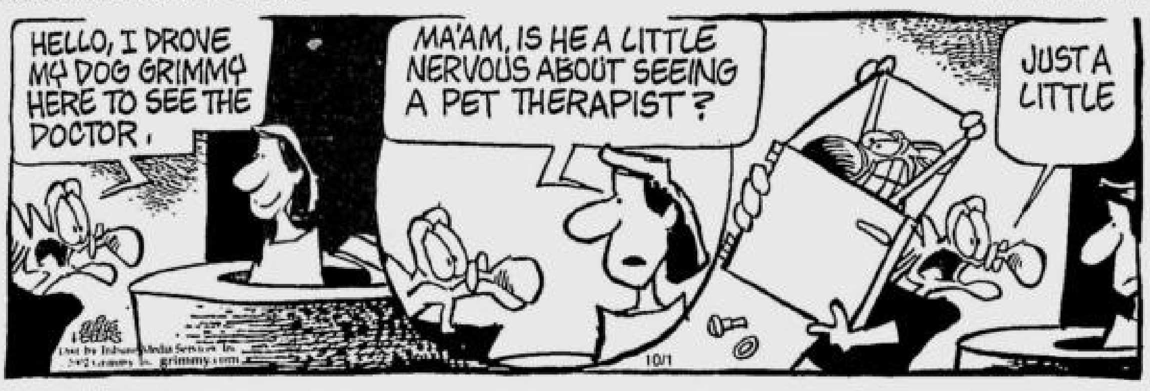
The UHT treatment eliminates all microorganisms that cause food spoilage while the short duration of heat exposure produces less damage to nutrients and flavor compounds. The sterile milk is then transferred to a sterilized package, like a Tetra Pak aseptic carton, and then sealed in.

It retains its taste and nutrients over a much longer time than pasteurized milk because the processing takes place entirely in a sealed, sterile environment, and because the milk is packed in a sterile carton and sealed, also under sterile conditions.

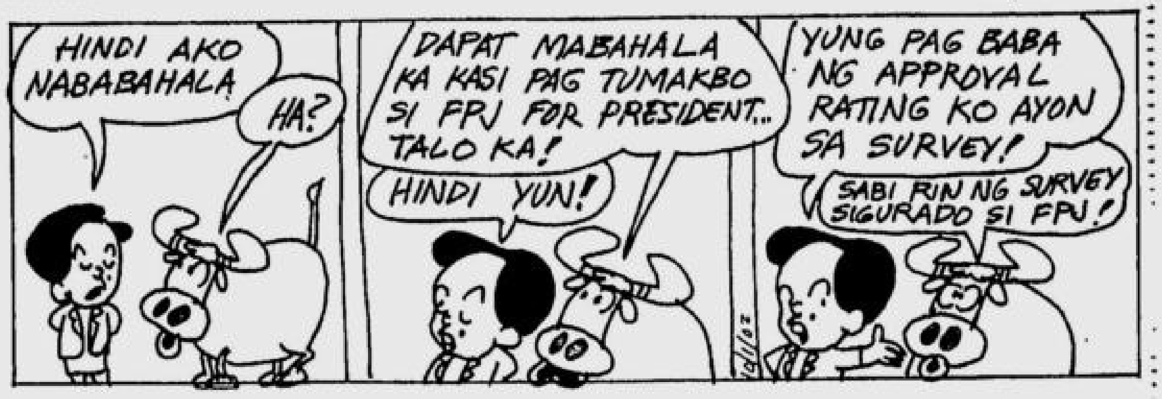
Milk in Tetra Pak aseptic packages can remain fresh for months without refrigeration, until the pack is actually opened. Flavor, color and texture are unchanged and the nutritional contents remain the same.

New
Chickenjoy
MAS PINA-CRISPYLICIOUS! MAS PINA-JUICYLICIOUS!
iisa ka pa!

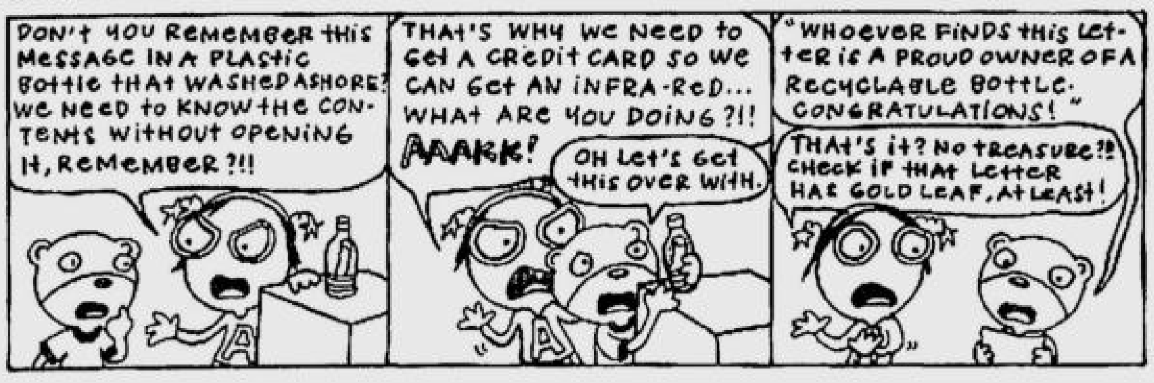
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


HELLO, I DROVE MY DOG GRIMMY HERE TO SEE THE DOCTOR.
MA'AM, IS HE A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT SEEING A PET THERAPIST?
JUST A LITTLE
10/1
grimmy.com

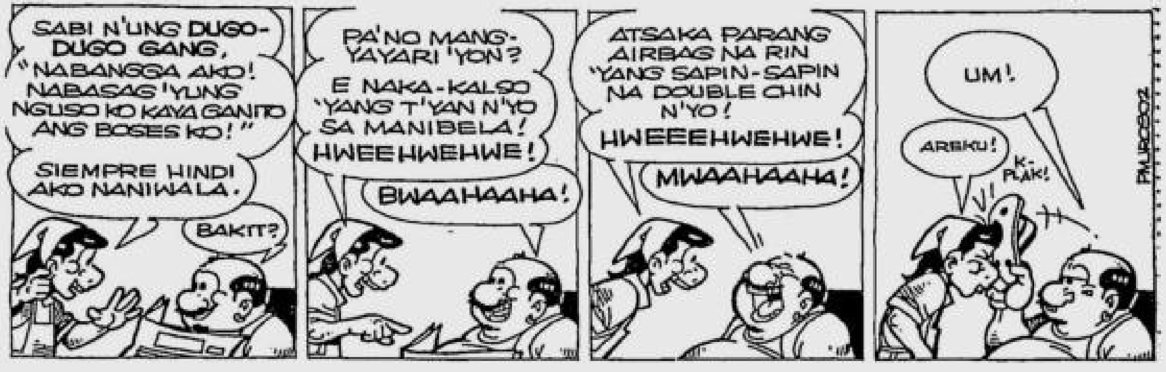
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI AKO NABABAHALA
HA?
DAPAT MABAHALA KA KASI PAG TUMAKBO SI FPJ FOR PRESIDENT... TALO KA!
HINDI YUN!
YUNG PAG BABA NG APPROVAL RATING KO AYON SA SURVEY!
SABI RIN NG SURVEY SIGURADO SI FPJ!

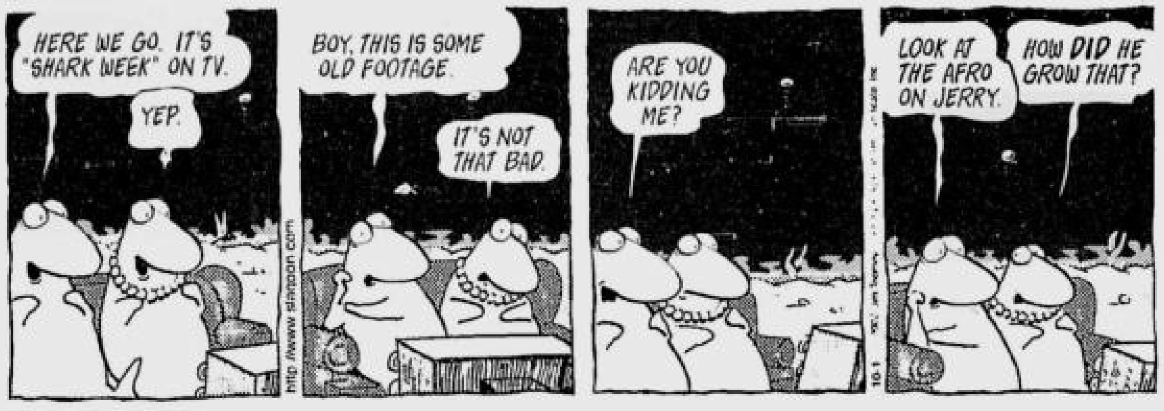
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DON'T YOU REMEMBER THIS MESSAGE IN A PLASTIC BOTTLE THAT WASHED ASHORE? WE NEED TO KNOW THE CONTENTS WITHOUT OPENING IT, REMEMBER?!!
THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO GET A CREDIT CARD SO WE CAN GET AN INFRA-RED... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!
AAAKK!
OH LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
"WHOEVER FINDS THIS LETTER IS A PROUD OWNER OF A RECYCLABLE BOTTLE. CONGRATULATIONS!"
THAT'S IT? NO TREASURE?! CHECK IF THAT LETTER HAS GOLD LEAF, AT LEAST!

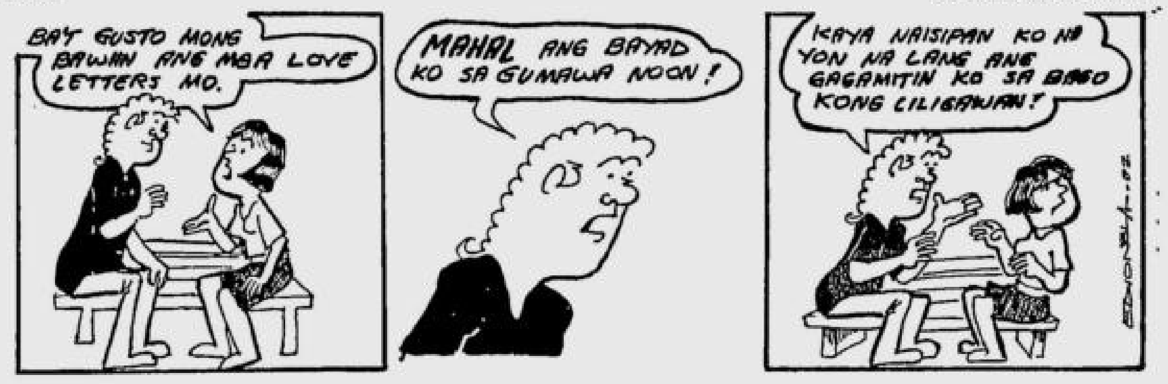
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SABI N'UNG DUGO-DUGO GANG, "NABANGGA AKO! NABASAG 'YUNG NGUSO KO KAYA GANITO ANG BOSES KO!"
SIEMPRE HINDI AKO NANIWALA.
BAKIT?
PA'NO MANGYAYARI 'YON?
E NAKA-KALSO 'YANG T'YAN N'YO SA MANIBELA!
HWEEHWEHWE!
BWAAHAAHA!
ATSAKA PARANG AIRBAG NA RIN 'YANG SAPIN-SAPIN NA DOUBLE CHIN N'YO!
HWEEEHWEHWE!
MWAAHAAHA!
UM!
ARBKU!
K-PLAK!
PMJR0802

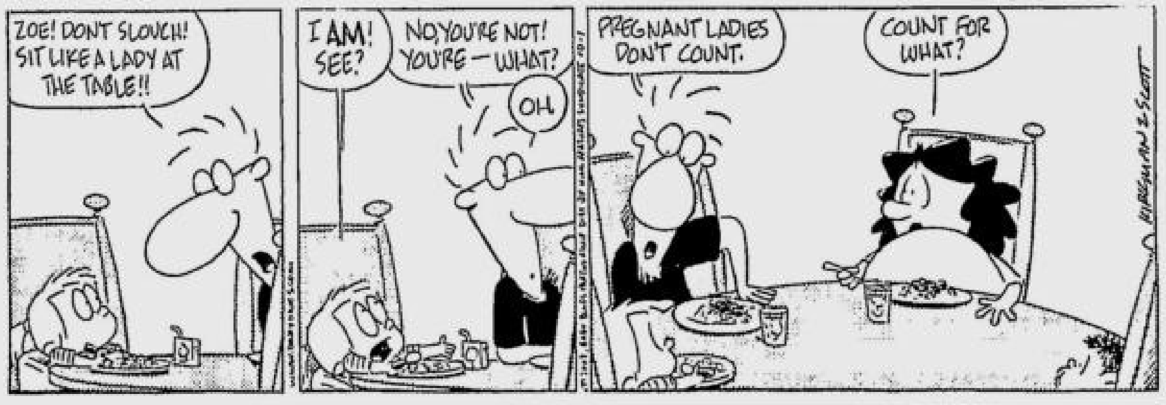
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


HERE WE GO. IT'S "SHARK WEEK" ON TV.
YEP.
BOY, THIS IS SOME OLD FOOTAGE.
IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
LOOK AT THE AFRO ON JERRY.
HOW DID HE GROW THAT?
http://www.slagoon.com
10-1

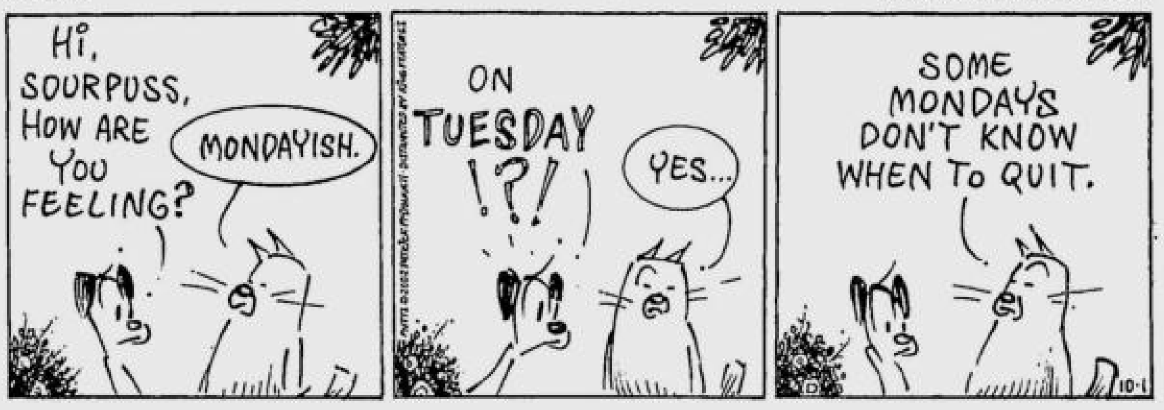
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


BA'T GUSTO MONG BAWIIN ANG MGA LOVE LETTERS MO.
MAHAL ANG BAYAD KO SA GUMAWA NOON!
KAYA NAISIPAN KO NA YON NA LANG ANG GAGAMITIN KO SA BAGO KONG LILIGAWAN!

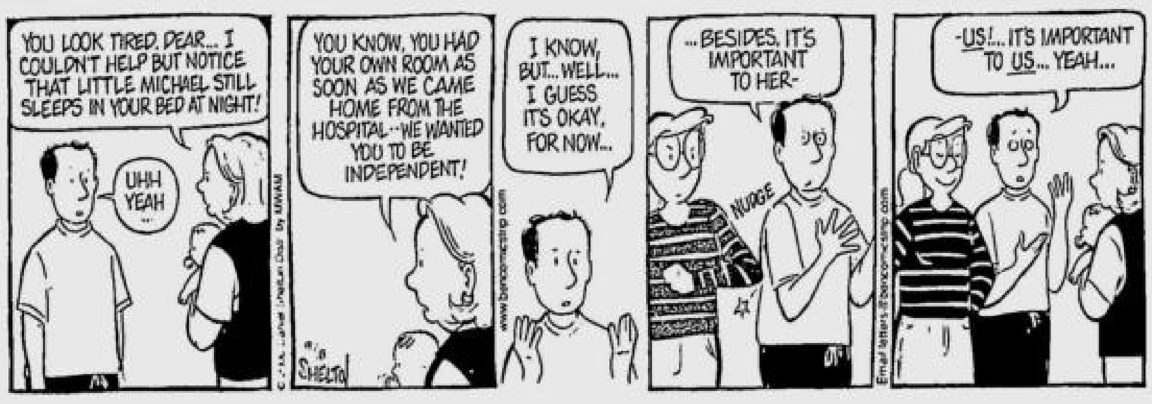
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE! DON'T SLOUCH! SIT LIKE A LADY AT THE TABLE!!
I AM! SEE?
NO, YOU'RE NOT! YOU'RE — WHAT?
OH.
PREGNANT LADIES DON'T COUNT.
COUNT FOR WHAT?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Hi, SOURPUSS, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
MONDAYISH.
ON TUESDAY !?!
YES...
SOME MONDAYS DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT.
10-1

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU LOOK TIRED, DEAR... I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT LITTLE MICHAEL STILL SLEEPS IN YOUR BED AT NIGHT!
UHH YEAH
YOU KNOW, YOU HAD YOUR OWN ROOM AS SOON AS WE CAME HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL - WE WANTED YOU TO BE INDEPENDENT!
I KNOW, BUT... WELL... I GUESS IT'S OKAY, FOR NOW...
...BESIDES, IT'S IMPORTANT TO HER-
NUDGE
-US!... IT'S IMPORTANT TO US... YEAH...
www.bencomicstrip.com
SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julie Andrews, Walter Matthau, Jimmy Carter, Stella Stevens

Happy Birthday: This will be a fast-paced year for you. You will be given opportunities that most people can only dream about. You will have the chance to reach whatever goal you set for yourself. You will have terrific ideas that will put you ahead of your peers. You will face competition but this will result in greater popularity. Your numbers are 12, 19, 27, 33, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Strive to make alterations to your domestic scene. You will want to avoid disputes. Some family members may be difficult to deal with. Keep the whole family busy working.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will make new friends if you get out and mingle. Your communication skills and your intelligence will be attractive to those you come in contact with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your inclination to overdo things and to avoid situations could be your undoing. Don't give in to your escapist tendencies. Pace yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pay attention to your intuition. You are more perceptive than you think. Your partner may not be completely honest with you. Do some investigating.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Deception is probable. Don't take anyone into your confidence or reveal your personal secrets. Search for diverse groups. It's necessary for you to become a member of a club or organization.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be confused about whether you are supposed to get together with friends at a particular time. Be conscientious when making purchases. Do not overextend yourself financially.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be ready to make concessions. Focus your attention on a real estate investment. Take a drive through areas where you'd most like to live.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can release a lot of pent-up energy with outdoor activities. Be sure to look after the needs of loved ones. Look into ways of improving your surroundings. Remove objects that are hogging your part of the sidewalk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Discard useless worn-out concepts and explanations. You have to motivate yourself. Take charge of your affairs. It's time to initiate new programs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Steer clear of comments that will come back to haunt you. Your partner will be easily hurt if you don't show them that you care. Try giving out compliments generously today.

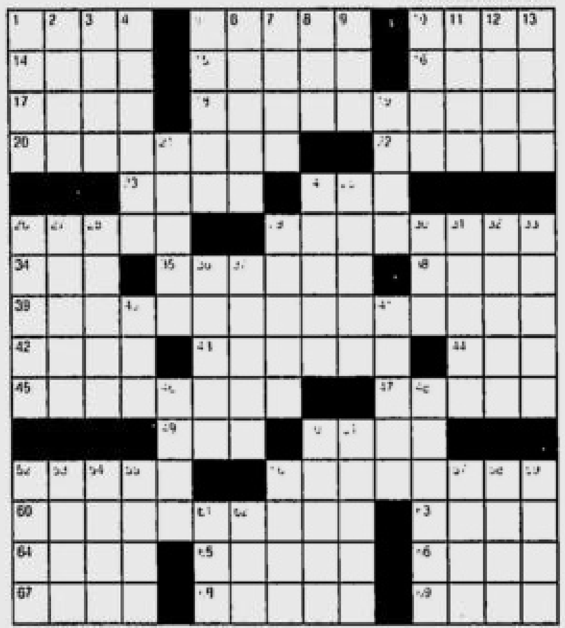
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't neglect any problems you have with skin, bones or teeth. Your positive attitude will bring you respect from others. Don't be afraid to say what you think at social gatherings.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Entertaining in your home will be successful. Your warmth and generosity will attract members of the opposite sex. Romantic interaction will be productive. Take a chance.

Birthday Baby: You will be sure of yourself and have the discipline and creative ability to follow through with your plans. You will always want to be sure that you are doing what's best for everyone.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Vivian O. Collins
Leesburg, GA

10/1/02

ACROSS
1 Close with a bang
5 Surpasses
10 Forenoon
14 Enlarge one's staff
15 AOL rival
16 Hautboy
17 Leave out
18 Sweet rings
20 Whenever requested
22 Small cove
23 Rowboat equipment
24 Unit of resistance
26 Cheerful
29 Ladies
34 Tavern selection
35 Character in "The Taming of the Shrew"
38 Race in "The Time Machine"
39 Sweet rings
42 "Painting" painter
43 Fertilized egg
44 Letters after MS or PC
45 African spear trees
47 Cartoonist Tex
49 Final, shortly
50 Challenge
52 Word with train or boat
56 1996 Robin Williams movie
60 Sweet rings
63 Dog or fox chaser?
64 Turkish titles
65 Australian wild dog
66 Gymnast Korbut
67 Move quickly
68 Swallowed
69 Plant anchor

DOWN
1 Bug off!
2 Describe
3 Like the Gobi
4 Luminous trail in the sky
5 To the most evident degree
6 Merits
7 Wearing loafers
8 Also
9 Heavy imbiber
10 Natural satellite
11 Ancient coin
12 Heavy cord
13 Cozy abode
19 Prom transport
21 Perhaps
24 Happen
25 "Stardust" composer Carmichael
26 Molten rock
27 Island near the Statue of Liberty
28 Raises
29 Uppity ones
30 Writer's tool
31 Slip away from
32 Copter blade
33 Spacek of the screen
36 Standard of perfection
37 Own up to
40 Ms. Caldwell
41 Secret cache
46 Gals' partners
48 1999 Cook book
50 Mournful song
51 Firebug's crime
52 Delighted
53 Latvian capital
54 At a distance
55 Sleeveless garment
56 Bowed
57 Woody's son
58 Type of dancer
59 French state
61 Fruit drink
62 By way of

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	N	U	B	■	C	L	O	P	■	J	A	F	F	A
P	A	N	E	■	H	A	V	E	■	I	D	O	L	S
I	V	A	N	■	A	L	A	N	■	H	A	R	E	S
C	A	R	D	I	N	A	L	S	C	A	G	E	D	■
E	L	M	■	N	E	W	■	■	A	D	E	S	■	■
■	■	■	S	T	Y	■	W	A	R	S	■	I	T	T
E	N	S	O	R	■	T	Y	R	O	■	A	G	H	A
C	O	W	B	O	Y	S	A	M	B	U	S	H	E	D
H	A	A	S	■	O	A	T	S	■	S	A	T	E	S
T	A	N	■	C	U	P	T	■	D	A	S	■	■	■
■	■	S	E	A	T	■	■	P	U	G	■	S	P	A
■	D	O	L	P	H	I	N	S	N	E	T	T	E	D
R	I	N	S	E	■	R	O	A	D	■	O	R	C	A
A	E	G	I	R	■	M	A	L	E	■	T	E	A	M
E	S	S	E	S	■	A	H	M	E	■	O	W	N	S

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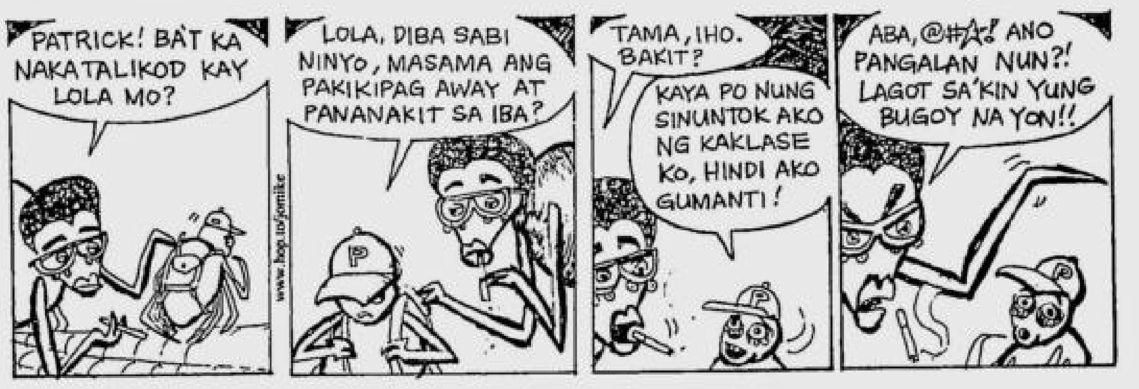
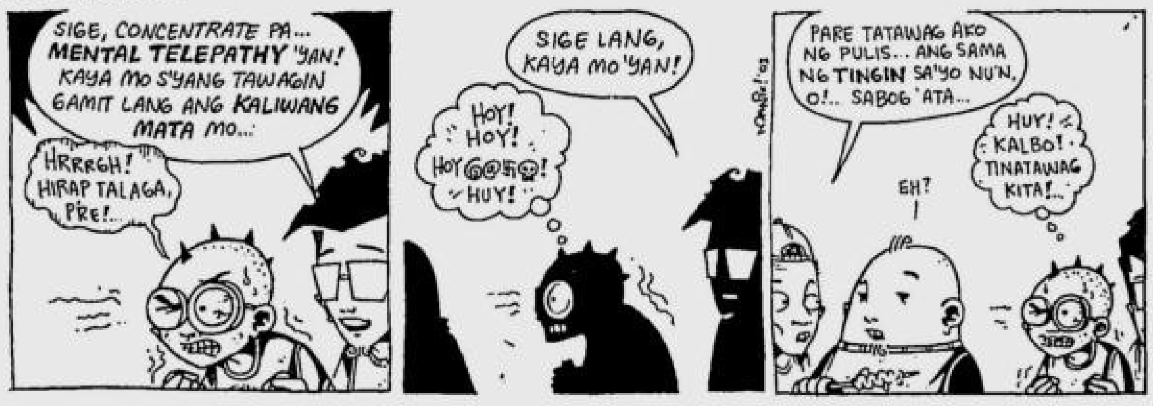
10/1/02

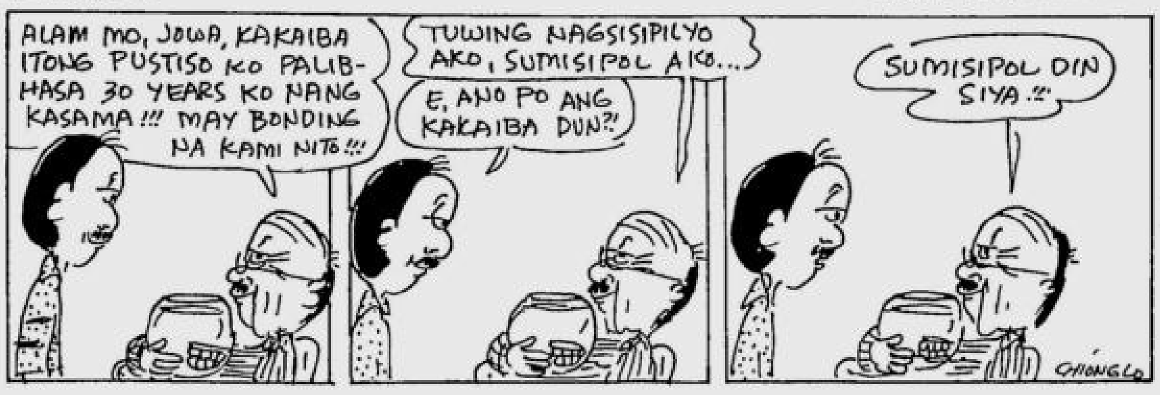
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PATRICK! BA'T KA NAKATALIKOD KAY LOLA MO?
LOLA, DIBA SABI NINYO, MASAMA ANG PAKIKIPAG AWAY AT PANANAKIT SA IBA?
TAMA, IHO. BAKIT?
KAYA PO NUNG SINUNTOK AKO NG KAKLASE KO, HINDI AKO GUMANTI!
ABA, @#☆! ANO PANGALAN NUN?! LAGOT SA'KIN YUNG BUGOY NA YON!!
www.hop.to/jomike

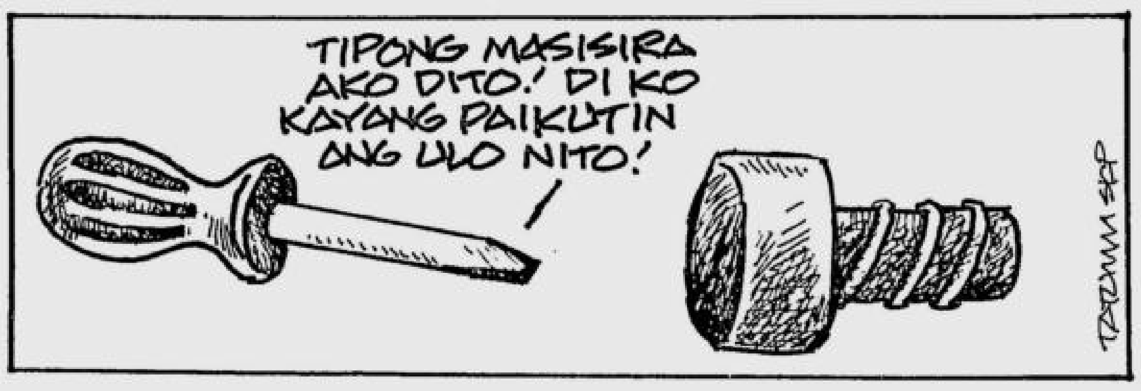
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


SIGE, CONCENTRATE PA... MENTAL TELEPATHY 'YAN! KAYA MO S'YANG TAWAGIN GAMIT LANG ANG KALIWANG MATA MO...
HRRRGH! HIRAP TALAGA, PRE!..
SIGE LANG, KAYA MO 'YAN!
HOY! HOY! HOY @@! HUY!
PARE TATAWAG AKO NG PULIS... ANG SAMA NG TINGIN SA'YO NU'N, O!.. SABOG 'ATA...
EH?
HUY! KALBO! TINATAWAG KITA!..

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO, JOWA, KAKAIBA ITONG PUSTISO KO PALIBHASA 30 YEARS KO NANG KASAMA!!! MAY BONDING NA KAMI NITO!!!
TUWING NAGSISIPILYO AKO, SUMISIPOL AKO...
E, ANO PO ANG KAKAIBA DUN?!
SUMISIPOL DIN SIYA!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TIPONG MASISIRA AKO DITO! DI KO KAYANG PAIKUTIN ANG ULO NITO!
TATUM SAP

Gamot para sa Kapwa
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2002

DIAMOND Lab's Ayeng Yaco (center) receives her plaque of appreciation. With her are (from left) DSWD Assistant Secretary Celia Yangco, DOH's Purita Yangco, KKMK president Orlando Mercado, SM's Connie Angeles and KBP president Jun Nicdao

Gamot para sa Kapwa
Gamot para sa Kapwa

AT THE RIBBON-CUTTING ceremony launching "Gamot Para sa Kapwa" were (from left) MBC's Andy Verde, MBC president Jun Nicdao, KKMK founder and chair Menardo Jimenez, SM Foundation's Connie Angeles, KKMK president Orlando Mercado, SM's Senen Mendiola, DSWD's Celia Yangco, DOH's Dr. Danga and Watsons' Grace Rivera.

Volunteer doctors, drug firms honored

SM Foundation's "Gamot Para sa Kapwa" honored doctors and pharmaceutical companies that contributed much to the medicine donation campaign.

The campaign was jointly undertaken by SM Foundation, Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko Foundation, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Manila Broadcasting Radio Network—DZRH, Yes FM and Love Radio.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony that launched the campaign was attended by KKMK founder and president Orlando Mercado, KKMK founder and chair Menardo Jimenez, DSWD Assistant Secretary Celia Yangco, DOH Regional Director Rolando Nieto, MBC president Ruperto Nicdao Jr. and DZRH's Andy Verde. They were joined by SM's Senen Mendiola, SM Foundation's Connie Angeles and Watson's Grace Rivera.

DOH regional director Dr. Purita Danga

During the program hosted by Allen Yotoko, doctors who have contributed time and effort to the campaign's medical missions were honored. They included Dr. Cesar Berrucho of Blooming Fields; Drs. Jocelyn Domingo, Jennilyn Uy and Gilber Mamasig of the East Avenue Medical Center; Dr. Cesar Bustos of the Quezon City General Hospital; Dr. Grace Beltran and Dr. Boyet Alfonso Jr. of the St. Luke's Medical Center. Also honored were master sergeants Wilfredo Rucio, Nelson Yang and Alexander Ayu, as well as Dr. Nellie Yao and Francesca Gajeto.

Pharmaceutical companies who contributed to the campaign included Zuellig Pharma, Pfizer, Pediapharma, Issho Genki, Bayer Monheim, J. Chemie Lab, East Valley, Romars, Hanseo Pharma, Phil USA and Diamond Lab.

SM's Senen Mendiola and Menardo Jimenez are joined by Watson's Grace Rivera, SM's SAVP for marketing Millie Dizon and SM's VP for operations Annie Garcia.

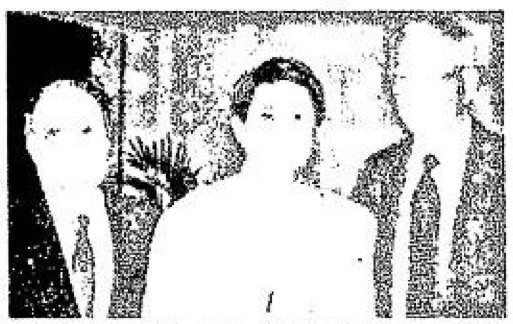
Filipino's best surgery fellow in US hospital

A FILIPINO doctor was named recently as the 2002 Outstanding Cardiovascular Surgery Fellow at the Honors Banquet of the Texas Heart Institute (THI) of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston, Texas.

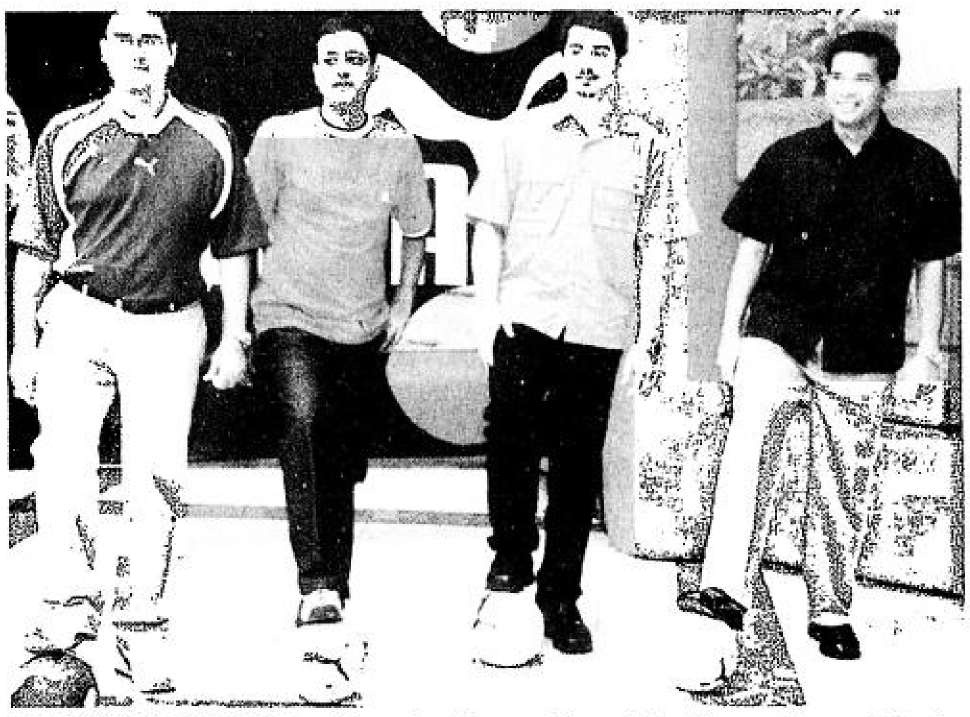
Dr. Felixberto S. Lukban, a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine class 1990, bested surgery fellows from other countries.

Before he went to Houston for training, Lukban was the chief resident of the Department of Surgery of the Philippine General Hospital. He was a fellow in thoracocardiovascular surgery in the same hospital.

THI's Department of Cardiovascular Surgery is headed by renowned heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley.



DR. James Willerson, Dr. Felixberto Lukban and Dr. Denton A. Cooley



CEREMONIAL KICK. Anton Gonzales, Sameer Prasad, Ian Veneracion and Mandy Ochoa

Ateneo wins plum prize in soccer tournament

LED by its coach Robert Manlulo, the team from the Ateneo de Manila University was declared champion in the recent IMG-organized Puma Invitational Street Soccer Tournament held at the Glorietta Activity Center. Ateneo defeated its staunchest rival, the Xavier Football Club, with a score of 6-5 in the finals.

The Xavier Football Club placed first runner-up in the overall scores, followed by the team from Masbate. Third runner-up was the Los Baños Eagles.

Fourteen teams coming from different schools, football associations and provinces in the Philippines battled against each other for three straight days of hot street soccer action. School-based teams included San Beda, Mendiola FC; San Vicente National High School and Vinzons Pilot High School in Camarines Norte; and La Salle Greenhills. Other participants from football schools, clubs and associations that participated were Japanese Football Club, Los Baños Football School, Baguio City Football Association, and the Misamis Oriental Football Association of Cagayan de Oro, Rizal-Rodriguez and Rizal-Taytay.

The Puma Invitational Street Soccer was part of the three-day Puma Football Festival. Unlike plain soccer, street soccer is played by four players instead of 11, and uses a smaller playing area. As its name suggests, the game originated in the alleys, particularly the back streets in Rio de Janeiro, Amsterdam, Paris and London. Puma has been organizing street soccer tournaments in the Philippines since 1997.

MVP Michael Gamboa of Ateneo

Other awards given at the finals of the Puma Invitational Street Soccer were the Chris Monfort Fair Play Award (given to the team with the least number of cautions), won by the Xavier Football Club; The Puma Most Valuable Player award, given to Ateneo's Michael Gamboa; Best Goalkeeper, to Carlo Luigi Robes (Ateneo); and the Philippine Star Best Striker, to Mark Marcaida (Masbate), who scored 38 goals.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Are dog bites covered under my MEDICard family program?

The emergency treatment for dog bites, snake bites and the like are covered under our standard program. This is however limited to the immediate treatment of the tissue injury (wound, etc.). Anti-rabies vaccines (anti-venom/anti-tetanus as it may apply) which may consequently be required, are not covered. Many corporate programs have this benefit as an add-on up to a maximum specified limit provided in the corporate healthcare agreement.

Meet your MEDICard Team

At Mary Chiles General Hospital in Sampaloc, MEDICard members may seek the services of specialist, **Dr. Peter Lloyd T. Mallari**. Dr. Mallari is an Ophthalmologist. He finished his degree in Medicine and his residency training for his specialization at UERM-MMC. Doc Peter subspecializes in the treatment of corneal diseases, external eye diseases, laser and refractive surgery with residency training from the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. He has been MEDICard's partner in the management of its members' health since 1999. He is a member of the Philippine Board of Ophthalmology, the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology, and the Cornea Club. Doc Peter is married to MEDICard accredited Dermatologist, Dr. Maria Rica Mallari and has been blessed with three children. He takes time-out from his clinical practice by enjoying his hobby playing tennis, badminton and swimming. You may visit him for consultation services at his clinic, Room 247 from Mondays to Saturdays, 12 noon to 3 PM.

Contract Signing

The **HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY** of Angeles City, Pampanga signed recently its MEDICard healthcare agreement at the Jade Garden Restaurant. Signing the contract were MEDICard's President Dr. Nicanor Montoya & Holy Angel President, Bernadette Nepomuceno. Also present were (seated L-R) Glennford Mirasol (MEDICard RMD Sr. Manager) & Precy Guerrero (Holy Angel Personnel Head); Standing (L-R) are MEDICard's Roel Yumul (Med. Operations Manager), Voltaire Victoria (Mktg. & Sales Manager), Lulu Dadia (Corp. Accounts Manager) & Rose Delima (Account Exec.) together with the university's Joselyn Aniceto (EVP Finance-Admin. Services), Edna Capati (Payroll Supervisor), Corazon Basco (Univ. Registrar) & Edna Santos (EVP for Academic Affairs)

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e -mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

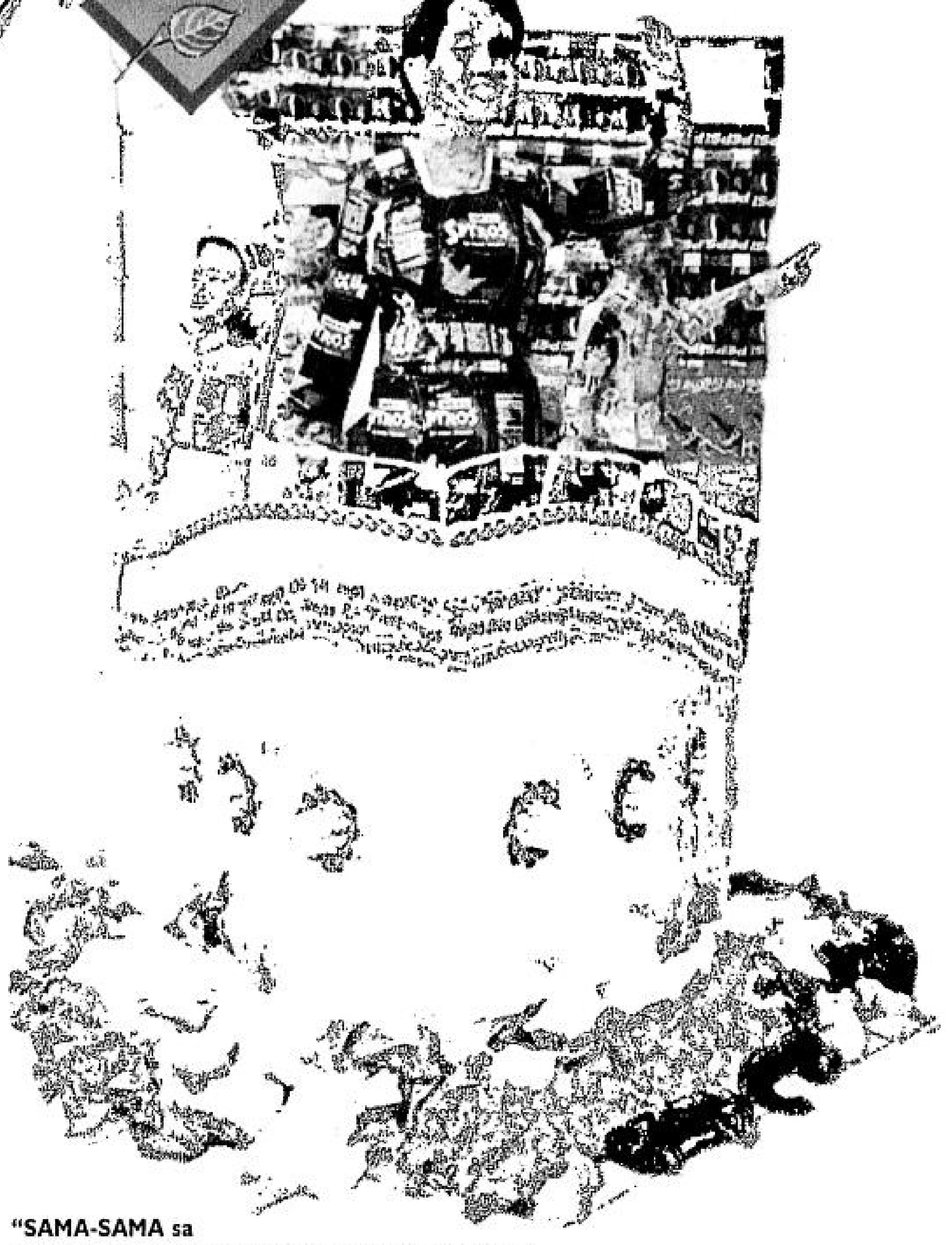
TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

AUGUST 26 · COMPOSTING
AUGUST 27 · LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN RECYCLING
AUGUST 28 · MRFs: CORNERSTONE OF R.A. 9003
FREE! REGISTER AT SECRETARIAT

"JEEPOY," Far Eastern University, first prize winner



"SAMA-SAMA sa Pag-Usad sa Bangka ni Ate Glo," Feati University

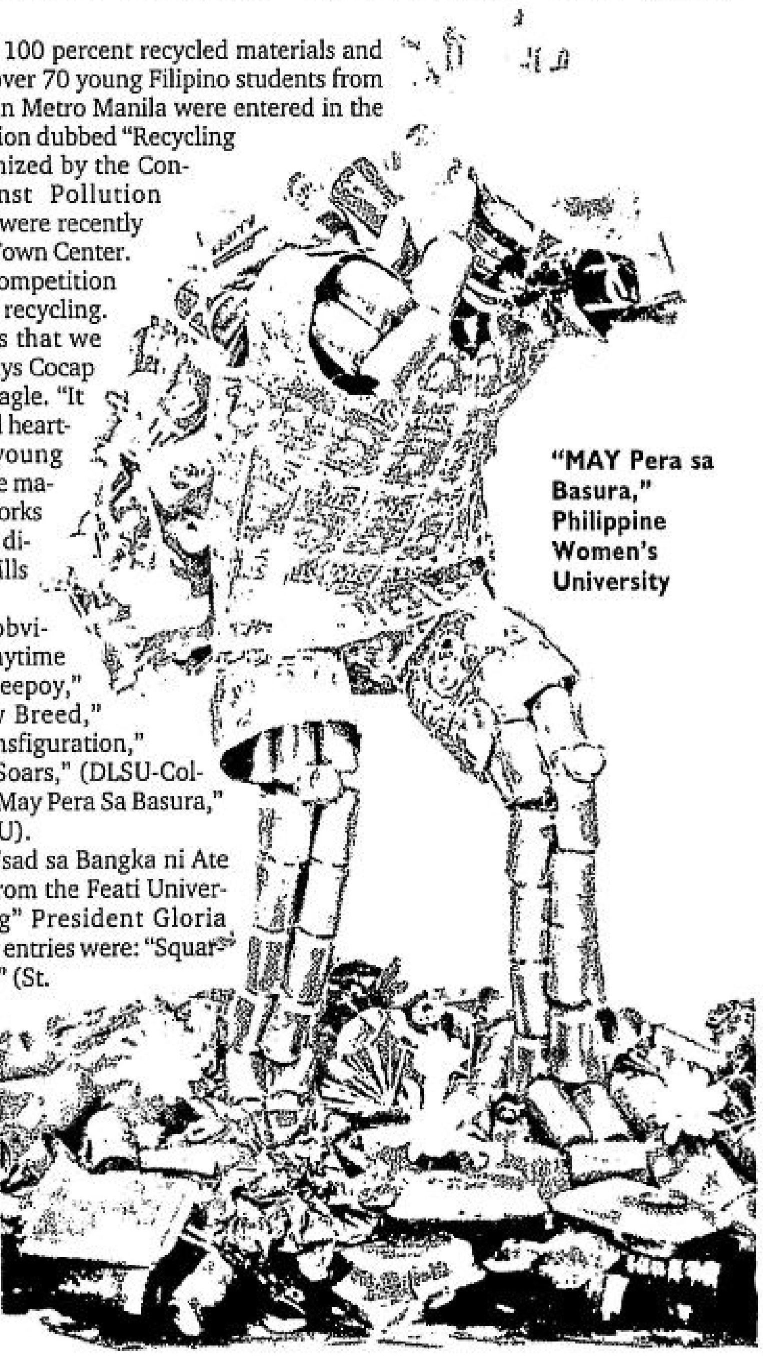
Students turn recycled materials into works of art

ARTWORKS made out of 100 percent recycled materials and ingeniously prepared by over 70 young Filipino students from colleges and universities in Metro Manila were entered in the first interschool competition dubbed "Recycling Magic," which was organized by the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (Cocap). These creations were recently exhibited at the Alabang Town Center.

"The purpose of this competition was to bring attention to recycling. There are so many items that we can recycle and reuse," says Cocap founder Ester Perez de Tagle. "It was doubly surprising and heartening to see what our young students can do with these materials. The range of artworks is a demonstration of the diversity, creativity and skills of these students."

The artworks won't obviously be thrown away anytime soon. The winners are "Jeepoy," first prize (FEU), "New Breed," second prize (UE), "Transfiguration," third prize (UE), "Dino Soars," (DLSU-College of St. Benilde) and "May Pera Sa Basura," honorable mention (PWU).

"Sama-Sama sa Pag-Usad sa Bangka ni Ate Glo" made by students from the Feati University features a "moving" President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Other entries were: "Squaring the World with Trash" (St. Scholastica's College), "Bangkang Papel, Plastik, Atbp." and "Fungiant" (College of the Holy Spirit), "Ritual De Lo Habitual" (PWU), "Dampot Simot" (FEU), "Wounded Healer" (Feati University) and "Basura?" (DLSU-College of St. Benilde).



"MAY Pera sa Basura," Philippine Women's University

Philippine Cerebral Palsy awards Belen Martel with Token of Gratitude

BELEN Lovina Ticzon-Martel, chair of Belco Marketing Inc., EVP of Harrison Plaza and director of Marsteel Consolidated Inc., was awarded a Token of Gratitude by the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc., (ELKS Cerebral Palsy Project Inc.) in recognition of her pursuit of the organization's objectives to improve the services of the institution and reach out to more families who need support, and for her invaluable support for the children and adults with cerebral palsy.

The past year has been a difficult donor environment for the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc., but it is particularly grateful to Martel and husband Antonio V. Martel Jr. for standing by the institution during these times.

The First Donor Recognition Day Ceremony was held at the Philippine Celebral Palsy Inc. headquarters on Sacred Heart Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City, with Lewis A. Edwards, chair of the board of directors, and Theodore V. Awad, vice chair 2000-2002, doing the honors of presenting the award to Martel. It coincided with the launch of their health promotion and education program.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2002
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Pyramid of balanced diet

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THE PYRAMID was designed to give people a model of various food groups and how much one should eat. It is not meant to be a rigid prescription but rather a gentle reminder.

Because most people eat indiscriminately, the pyramid acts as one's diet plan. Assuming you follow it, chances are you'll get a balanced diet.

No food group is more important than the other—for good health, you need them all.

There are those who claim that there is no urgent need to follow the pyramid. Their opinion, of course, is respected. After all, there are many ways of peeling an onion.

Calorie requirements

The pyramid calls for eating a variety of foods to get the nutrients you need and the right amount of calories to maintain a healthy weight. Calorie requirements or the energy you get from food depends on your age, sex, weight and activity level. In general, daily intake should be: 1,600 calories for most women and older adults; 2,200 calories for children, teen girls, active women and most men; 2,800 calories for teen boys and active men (pregnant or lactating women, teens or young adults up to age 24 should have three servings of milk daily).

For those with fewer calorie requirements, follow the minimum serving stated in the diagram. And, for those who require more energy, follow the higher serving requirement. ***(See diagram of general food guide pyramid)***.

One of the most sensible pyramids is the Mayo Clinic Healthy Weight Pyramid, which gives more importance to veggies and fruits than carbohydrates.

Eating formula

Confusion is normally the result of interpreting a pyramid, especially for first timers, so here's something easy to follow.

Eat one kind of fruit (or drink a glass of fruit juice) during mealtime or as a snack; one serving of lean meat/poultry or fish, or beans and legumes—three times week; one serving of vegetables, lunch and dinner; one serving of whole grains every meal; six to eight glasses of water daily.

While fat cannot be completely eliminated from our diets because we do need 25 percent of fat daily to maintain a healthy lifestyle, you may buy lean meats such as beef (round tip, top round, eye of round, loin, sirloin, tenderloin), pork (tenderloin, boneless top, loin chop, boneless ham, center loin chop), lamb (loin chop, legs), and veal (cutlet, loin chop).

> Calorie requirements depend on one's age, sex, weight and activity level

Bread, Cereal, Rice and Pasta Group
1 slice of bread
1 slice tortilla
½ c cooked rice, pasta, cereal
1 muffin, bagel
3-4 plain crackers
1 pancake (4 inches)
1 croissant
2 cookies
1/12 of a pie
10 pc french fries
½ c potatoes
½ c potato salad

Vegetable Group
½ c chopped raw or cooked veggies
1 c raw leafy vegetables
¾ c vegetable juices

Fruit
1 pc fruit or papaya/melon wedge
¾ c fruit juice
½ c canned fruit

Milk, Yoghurt and Cheese Group
1 c milk/yoghurt
1-½ oz cheese
2 c cottage cheese, 1-½ c ice cream
1 c frozen yoghurt

Milk, Poultry, Fish
2-½ to 3 oz lean beef, pork, lamb, poultry, fish
½ c cooked beans
1 egg
2 tbsp peanut butter
½ c nuts

According to Dr. Sanirose Orbeta, there are more than 20 different kinds of food pyramids, which include Asian, Oriental, Mediterranean and Mexican. They may vary according to food portions or daily servings. All of them follow a basic principle—a balanced serving of all food groups.

The pyramid is you

A yogi once told me that everyone's mission is to strive to become a pyramid. The base of the pyramid is the earth, man in the center and heaven at the apex—human nature transcending the physical toward the spiritual—like earth uniting with heaven.

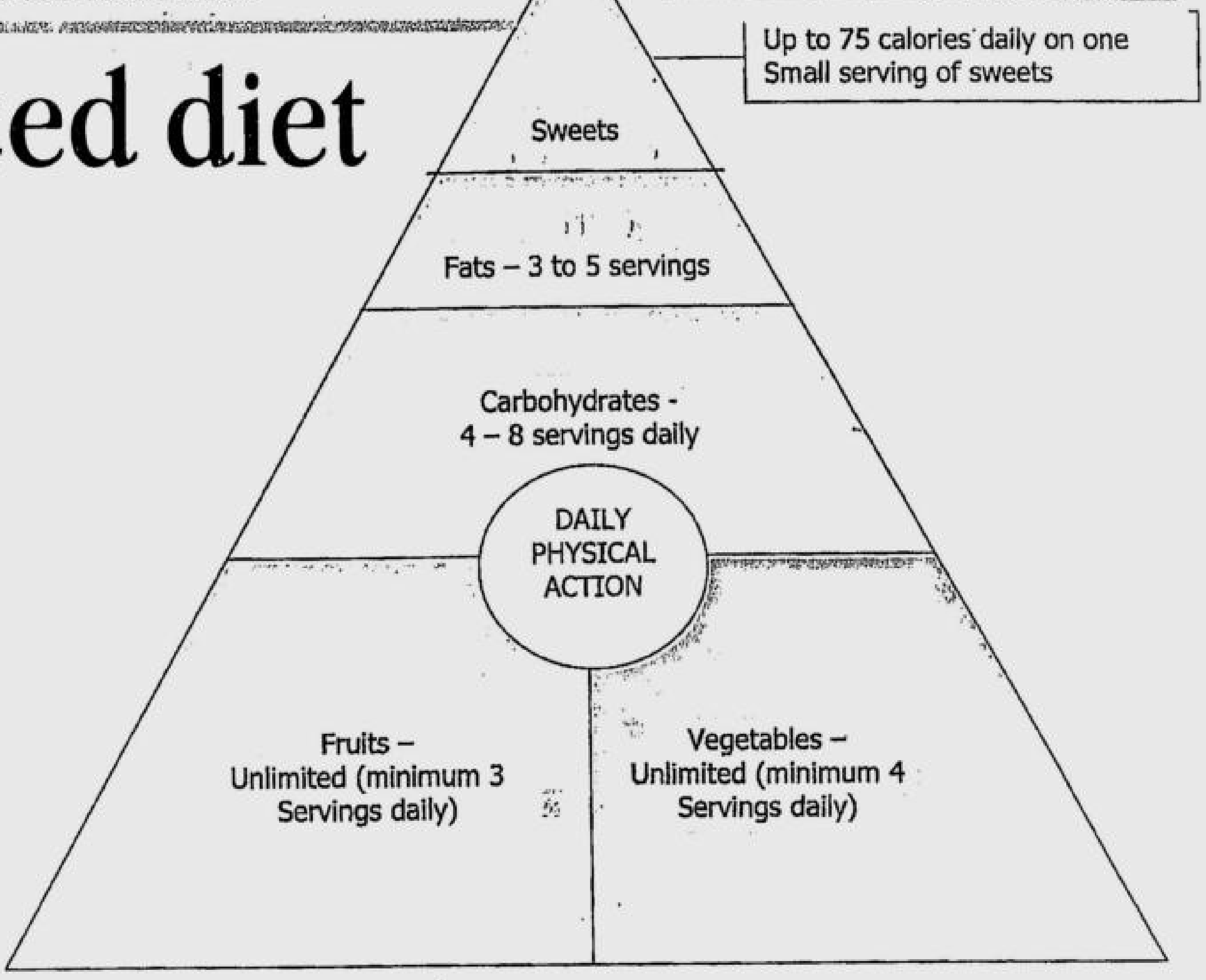
So the next time you think of a pyramid, remember that wellness isn't just about food. It's really about fusion, integrating parts—body, mind and spirit—to achieve our destiny.

Love and light!

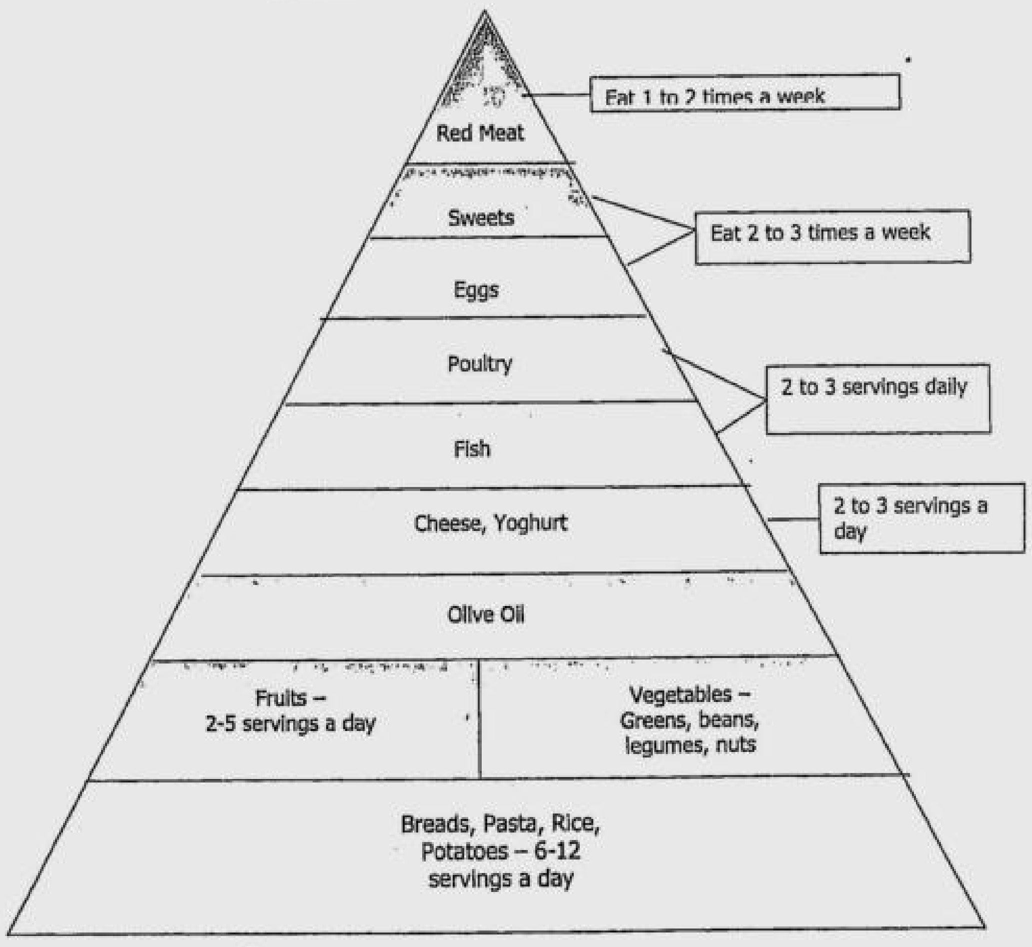
"Total Wellness," the body, mind and spirit workshop with Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino at Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, will be held Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 645-3706 and look for Cristy.

"Forever Young—Guide to Beauty and Wellness" is available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.

MAYO CLINIC HEALTHY WEIGHT PYRAMID


Up to 75 calories daily on one Small serving of sweets
Sweets
Fats – 3 to 5 servings
Carbohydrates - 4 – 8 servings daily
DAILY PHYSICAL ACTION
Fruits – Unlimited (minimum 3 Servings daily)
Vegetables – Unlimited (minimum 4 Servings daily)

GENERAL FOOD GUIDE PYRAMID



New skin and body center offers Italian products

THOUGH they say that "beauty is but skin deep," one's skin reflects the inner health of every woman. Her physical well-being shows in the wellness of her skin. Good skin means a woman leads a very healthy life. However, daily baths even with moisturizing soaps are not enough to keep your skin beautiful, especially with the soot and grime polluting the city air. But there are now skin care products that promote the skin's total well-being.

YOU skin and body center exclusively carries Dr. LaurAnne skincare line from Rome, Italy. According to Bella Tan-Co, owner of YOU, "The products are meant to give you a radiant glow using fruit extracts and the ingredients from Italy."

Some of the unique products of Dr. LaurAnne are: the Alphaegel, using aloe vera, a preparatory mask applied on the whole body before any other massaging treatment, and the Moonlife Lifting Effect, for minimizing wrinkles. It's like having a facelift without the costly surgery. The Eternite Kit, a three-phase kit, is formulated for allergy-prone skin. Butcher broom extracts and horse chestnut oil found in the cleansing milk eliminates the redness, rashes and bumps, which result from irritation. Another product line is the Global System, which works on minimizing visible pores and lightening those dark spots from old pimple scars.

The malic extracts from apples and maples soften the skin as the citric, lactic and tartaric extracts from oranges, lemons, grapes, milk and bilberry lighten the dark spots.

YOU is located at 3/F Washington Building, Wilson Street, Greenhills, with tel. 724-0665.

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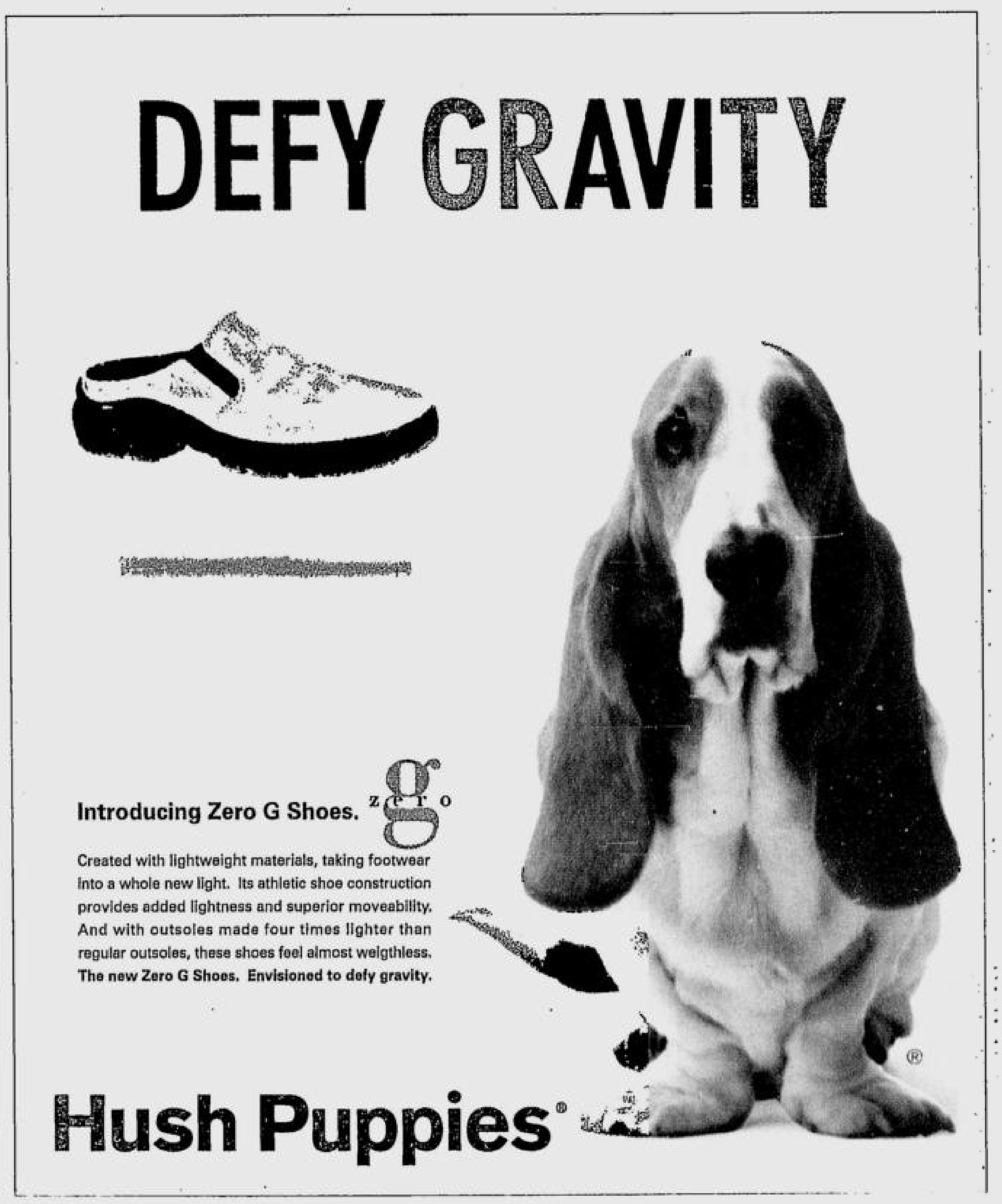
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THE 20TOOTYLICIOUS team: Shelli Manuel, Frederic Ocampo and Gameplan host Rovilson Fernandez

202 WOTTAMEN'S Carlo Ledesma, Miko Beltran and Emilio Cagmat

Adventure from Luneta to Sagada

The Del Monte 2002 Great Outdoor Quest is an endurance test like no other

Text by Christian B. Bautista
Contributor
Photos by Stephan Earl Chow

WITH AN ITINERARY that covered Luneta and Sagada in three days, the Del Monte 202 Great Outdoor Quest proved to be quite a contest, as 12 competitors, four of whom are hosts of Studio 23's adventure sport show "Gameplan," raced through most of Northern Luzon for the P100,000 prize.

Four teams slugged it out in the adventure race: the Del Monte "202-nauts" composed of Carlo Gatmaitan, Rain Avanzado and Akiko Thomson, the "202Wottamen" with Miko Beltran, Emil Cagmat and Carlo Ledesma, the "202Good" with Natalia Uy, Jinno Rufino and Yas Tang, and the eventual winner, the "20Tootylicious," composed of Frederic Andrews Ocampo, Shelli Manuel and Rovilson Fernandez.

Tagging along with every team was a radio operator and a "Gameplan" cameraman. The operator and cameraman were treated like teammates. Progressing without them was prohibited. Not that there was any need to slow down at their expense. The cameramen and operators more than kept up with the race, receiving a deluge of applause in the end.

Each team was given a P7,000 "race fund." This was their lifeblood, covering food, lodging and transportation. Racers were prohibited from supplementing the fund with their own money. They were only allowed to barter.

Throughout the race, competitors searched for green envelopes with the Del Monte 202 logo. The envelopes were clues that led to the next destination. At a selected point, one of the competing teams got the opportunity to snatch an orange envelope. This was the Del Monte 202 Express, entitling the team to an advantageous one-kilometer car ride.

Participants were chosen through endurance tests. Uy, a UP varsity swimmer, topped the swim part of the test by clocking in at 3:12.93. On the other hand, Cagmat, a seasoned triathlete, finished first in the run with a time of 36:13.

GAMEPLAN host Akiko Thomson, Carlo Gatmaitan and Rain Avanzado of the 202-nauts team

ANOTHER can of pineapple juice, please!

Starting line

The race started at Baluarte de San Diego in Intramuros. With a 6 a.m. call time, racers were given clues that led to the first control point—the Light and Sound tableaux in Luneta. From there, the racers were instructed to head for the Victory Liner or Philippine Rabbit bus station to catch the 7 a.m. bus to Baguio. The Del Monte 202nauts were the first to depart from Manila, riding a Philippine Rabbit bus. 20Tootylicious, missing the 7 a.m. bus, tried to catch an L-300 Express, but were unable to find one.

The seven-hour trip was the pivotal stretch in the first day. With the long distance to cover, the time of arrival was completely out of the competitor's hands. Some of the racers pleaded with their bus drivers to speed up.

The racers got off in a bus stop at Camp John Hay, later getting taxis to Skyworld in Session Road, which was the second control point. At the "ukay-ukay," racers were instructed to buy bonnets and blankets in exchange for the next clue. Arriving first was the team of 202Good, clocking in at 1:32 p.m. Right behind them were Whottamen and 20Tootylicious, arriving at 1:35 p.m. and 1:39 p.m., respectively. The 202nauts were the last to arrive at 2:19 p.m.

From Skyworld, the participants moved along to the boating area in Burnham Park. Getting on a boat to paddle to the center of the lake where the clue was located, 202Good did not let up as they arrived first at 1:40 pm. Close behind were Wottamen, arriving at 1:41 p.m. 20Tootylicious weren't far behind, arriving two minutes later. The 202nauts, suffering some setbacks with a slow bus ride to Baguio, clocked in at 2:24 p.m.

The leader board changed during the retrieval of the clues as Wottamen edged out 202Good, getting the clues at 1:48 p.m. 20Tootylicious overcame a slow start to come in a close second at 1:51 p.m. 202Good, leading for most of the day, arrived third at 1:52 p.m. Finally, the 202nauts retrieved the clues at 2:35 p.m.

The first station for the race was Barrio Fiesta along Baguio's Leonard Wood Road. Racers were instructed to run up the restaurant's famous steps that were dotted with giant statues depicting Filipino culture. The last team to reach the top of the stairs was deemed eliminated.

Arriving first was the Wottamen, clocking in two hours ahead of schedule at exactly 2 p.m. Two minutes later, 20Tootylicious snapped at the leader's heels despite early setbacks. Early leaders 202Good were relegated to third place as they arrived at 2:05 p.m. The 202nauts, the favorites at the start, arrived at 2:45 p.m. and bowed out of contention. All of the teams were penalized for taking public transportation to the Burnham Park boating area. In the clue, the competitors were explicitly instructed to trek.

A REFRESHING drink after hours of trekking

The loss was a bitter pill for the 202nauts as they led most of the race's Manila leg. "*Malas lang*, we picked a slow bus. Our bus stopped around four times," said Thomson. "*Masakit. Kasi* we wanted to finish the race."

After about a two-hour rest at Barrio Fiesta, the racers were given clues that led them to either the Dangwa or the Florida bus station. From there, they were instructed to board a bus to the Heroes Memorial in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. This was the competition's first dark zone. The dark zone would stop the race and prohibit any competitor from continuing.

Refusing to relinquish the lead was the Wottamen as they found the clue near an old artillery cannon at 1:10 a.m. 202Good made up for their disastrous stint in the boating area as they edged out 20Tootylicious for second place.

Midway

After a brief rest, racers had to catch the earliest jeep to Banaue at 5 a.m. Trekking to the Banaue Museum after arriving at the town's *poblacion*, 202Good caught the lead once again as they signed in at 8:03 a.m. Despite being first to make it into the museum, 202Good had some trouble finding the clue. "*Hanap kami nang hanap sa loob. Nandoon lang pala sa* reception area," said Uy, the team captain. Arriving just as scheduled, 202Good also found the first 202 Express clue, which said that the first person to make it to the next control point would get the 202 Reward.

From there, the competitors took a tricycle to the Banaue Viewpoint, the next control point. At the Viewpoint, racers were instructed to look for an Ifugao man holding a Del Monte 202 can. To get the clue, they were to greet the man "good morning" in the local dialect.

Not relinquishing the lead was 202Good as they got the clue at 8:20 a.m. Not far behind were 20Tootylicious, who arrived two minutes later. The Wottamen made things interesting as they arrived a minute later.

202GOOD'S Yas Tang, Natalia Uy and Jinno Rufino

Catching a tricycle back to the *poblacion*, the teams then took tricycles marked with Del Monte 202 flaglets to Batad Junction. From the junction, racers had to take a three-hour trek to the isolated Tappia Waterfalls. Getting the fruits of the 202 reward, 202Good put one over their rivals as they caught a ride.

Passing through the waterfalls, some racers couldn't help but enjoy the view. "*Sobrang ganda ng pinupuntahan*. There was a time when we stopped. We made it a point to enjoy the trip," said Tang, a former Ateneo de Manila University football player.

Fernandez, team captain of 20Tootylicious, agreed. "We were in awe of the terrain."

At the waterfall, the last control point for the day, a member of each team had to swim to retrieve the clue. Ocampo did well for 20Tootylicious as he snatched the clue that led to the nearby Rita's Inn, the next dark zone.

The race stopped in the afternoon to give the competitors enough time to rest. Taking the lead for the day were 20Tootylicious, with 202Good trailing them with just a few minutes. The Wottamen suffered a blow as Beltran succumbed to cramps in the middle of the trek. "I just cramped off really bad. I've never had it with this intensity," he said.

Oblivious to the fact that they still had a chance to make it to last day with a 30-minute penalty slapped against 202Good for taking the wrong tricycle to the Batad Junction, the Wottamen gave up the fight. "*Paakyat*, steady *na lang kami… kasi alam naming talo na*," said Beltran.

The lead came as no surprise for 20Tootylicious. "We kept our heads. We knew coming into today, we can do it," said Fernandez.

Finish

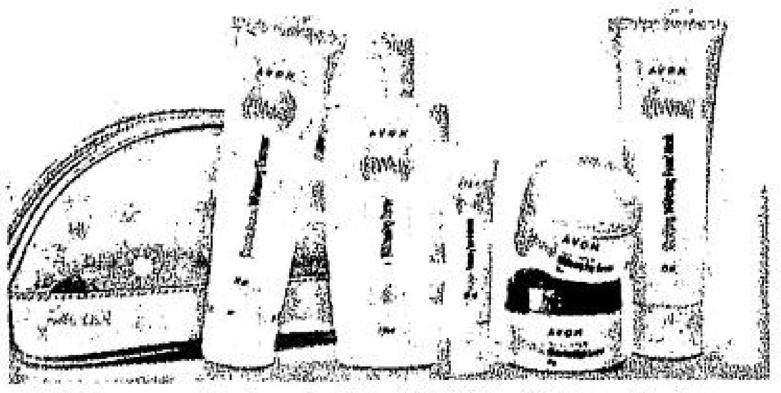
Arriving first in Rita's Inn the day before, 20Tootylicious got a 15-minute head start for the two-hour trek back to the Batad Junction. There, the racers took tricycles to Banaue's *poblacion*. From there, they took jeeps to the Bluebird Restaurant in Bontoc, which was about two hours away.

Arriving first at the restaurant were 20Tootylicious as they signed in at 10:20 a.m. Surprisingly close were 202Good, as they met up with their rivals five minutes later. To get the clue, racers had to eat *pinikpikan*, a native delicacy. With the instructions not telling them to eat everything prepared for them, 20Tootylicious made a shrewd move as they ignored the rice that came with the dish.

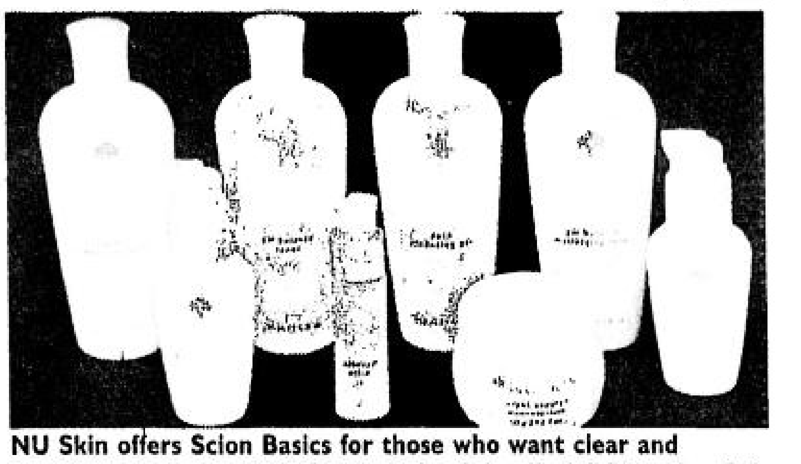
Keeping themselves a few minutes apart from their rivals, 20Tootylicious were first to catch a bus to Sagada, which was about an hour away. Once in Sagada, competitors had to find Echo Valley, the next control point. Further putting distance were 20Tootylicious as they took a 24-minute lead, arriving at 11:55 a.m. From there, it was easy going all the way as Fernandez clocked in a record time inside Sumaging Cave, the competition's last control point. With teammate Ocampo ineligible to go into the cave for making the swim in Tappia, Fernandez put the race beyond any doubt as he made it in only 45 minutes.

From there, 20Tootylicious ran untouched to the finish line—the St. Mary's School. Getting a shower of Del Monte 202 beverages as they crossed, Fernandez declared, "At the start of the race, everyone said we couldn't do it… We proved them wrong. We proved the world wrong."

KERASTASE Dermo-Calm treatment from the L'Oreal Recherche Avancee addresses scalp and hair problems, provides proper healing for every hair type, and remedy for excessively treated hair. Experience Kerastase Dermo-Calm whether personally or professionally. Available in selected salons in Metro Manila.



AVON has recently launched the PT White Moisture Restore Whitening Night Cream and the PT White on Target Spot Treatment to complete the whitening system under its PT White brand. The line includes PT White Double Action Whitening Cleanser, PT White Clarifying Whitening Facial Mask, PT White pH-Balanced Whitening Toner and the PT White Triple Defense Whitening Day Cream. Each product contains licorice, which effectively inhibits melanin production.



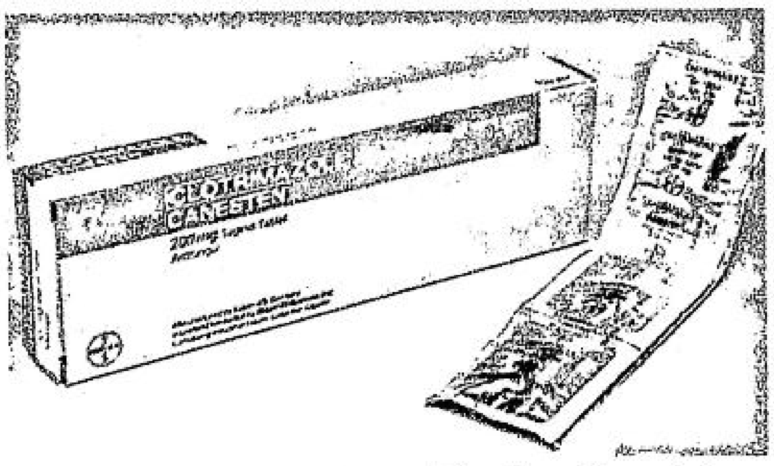
NU Skin offers Scion Basics for those who want clear and healthy complexion. The line includes Scion Facial Cleansing Gel, Refining Facial Toner and Moisture Light Cream. Scion Basics adheres to the fundamental formula of skin care: cleanse, tone and moisturize. It is exclusively distributed by Nu Skin Philippines Inc. Call the Nu Skin distributor hotline at 689-0333.

Nature-inspired products for youthful-looking skin

WEEKLY DOSAGE

SARA Lee Direct Selling Philippines has launched the Nutrimetics Skincare Line. Each Nutrimetics product contains natural ingredients such as almond meal, rice bran oil, avocado oil, aloe vera, eucalyptus, cornflower, papaya extract and jojoba oil. All products are vegetable-based and do not contain petroleum or animal-derived products. The new product line includes: Skin Clean Cleansing Milk, Nutri-Moist Moisturizing Cream, Skin Fresh Toning Lotion, Specific Care SPF 18 Day Lotion, Nutri-Moist EL Extra Light Moisturizing Cream and Specific Care Anti-Wrinkle Retinol Serum. The products are available exclusively at Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines (formerly House of Sara Lee), and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. Call hotline at 810-5402.

EXTRADERM Exfoliant helps prevent wrinkles, eliminate blemishes and brown spots, and whiten skin. It's fortified with tretinoin, a Vitamin-A derivative that helps dry up pimples and minimize wrinkles. It also contains a safe and gentle skin-whitening formula. Extraderm Exfoliant was developed by Filipino dermatologists at the Splash Research Institute. It offers a complete skin-renewal system, which includes deep-cleansing, pimple-preventing clarifying lotion, moisturizers, sunblock and soaps.

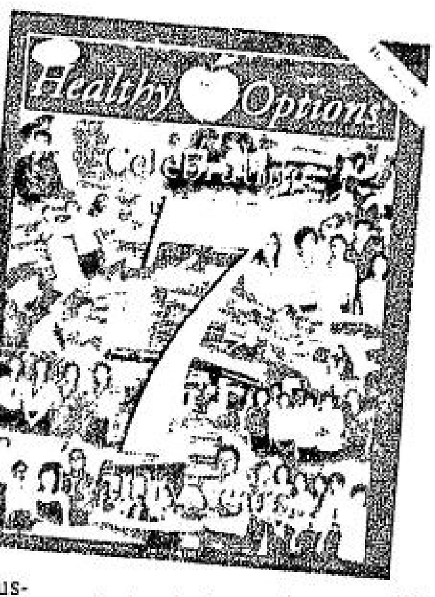


CANESTEN Vaginal Tablet is an antifungal brand for vaginal candidiasis. It contains Clotrimazole, a broad-spectrum antifungal agent effective against dermatophytes, yeast and molds. Clotrimazole is considered the gold standard in antifungal treatment because it is effective and safe.

PASCUAL Laboratories Inc. manufactures Aspirin Cor-30, a heart-shaped tablet that is 30 mg of aspirin. Aspirin has been found to play an important role in heart attack and stroke prevention. A daily dose of 30 mg is recommended for people who survived a heart attack or at risk of having one. Aspirin Cor-30 is available in leading drugstores nationwide.

GET more than a great product with Master Facial Cleanser's "Guapo Gimiks" and Block & White's "Personal Pleasures" sticker promos. Each bottle of Master Facial Cleanser and Block and White comes with discount stickers. The bigger the bottle, the more discount stickers you get. The promos are ongoing until Nov. 15, while discounts will be honored until Jan. 15, 2003.

Magazine features interesting health articles and news tidbits



AS Healthy Options celebrates seven years, it continues to offer something good not just for people's bodies but for the rejuvenation of spirit and mind as well. Keeping its growing number of satisfied customers updated on health trends, findings and product news is the Healthy Options News Digest, which is available at the store.

As the nutrition superstore marks its seventh anniversary, it features the faces behind the company's success. So, finding their way to the cover of the September-October 2002 issue of the Healthy Options News Digest are the happy faces of satisfied customers and staff members, business partners and executives, who all work together to address customer needs and keep company operations smoothly running.

Healthy Options has made it its mission and vision to offer nutritious, superior and healthy foods and help people enjoy longer, richer and more fulfilling lives by empowering them to take control over their own health.

In the September-October issue of the Health Options News Digest, Romy Sia expressed his appreciation to his staff for contributing to the success and expansion of the health food store business, and also announced the November opening of the 10th Healthy Options store in Bicutan, Metro Manila.

The issue features interesting articles and health news tidbits for readers of all ages. In the "Health News" section, folic acid, which plays a crucial role in just about every cell found in the human body, gets noteworthy attention. "Natural Remedies" tackles the chronic inflammatory condition affecting joints and the entire body, rheumatoid arthritis, and lists nutritional supplements with corresponding doses and other natural therapies to keep it in check. "Vital Finds" features an empowering article titled "Overcoming Dyslexia," intended to help people cope with the reading disorder and learning disability.

Turning to food matters, the health-conscious will find the article, "The High and Low of Glycemix Index," helpful and informative. On the other hand, "Health Notes" features a contentious issue in the clinical practice of medicine—the decision to prescribe medication for breastfeeding mothers. "Women's Health" offers a better understanding of thyroid health, while "Supplement Review" features hot herbal teas for the cold season. Finally, check out the cutting-edge books that are also available at Healthy Options, with a brief description of each of the latest arrivals.

Check out the reading gems and practical pieces of advice found in the Healthy Options News Digest, available at Healthy Options, with stores located at the following: G/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L Festival Super-mall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L Ayala Center, Cebu City; lower G/L SM City, North Edsa; 2/L SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; 2/L SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City; and SM City, Pampanga.

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Prevent Osteoporosis in one easy step.

Nestlé Calcium Plus continues the fight against osteoporosis by bringing Operation Bone Check. Simply walk on over to selected Mercury Drug stores to know your osteoporosis risk. Place your foot on the PIXI machine and walk away with the results in minutes. So don't delay, fight osteoporosis by detecting it early.

To have a free bone check, simply present one boxtop of Nestlé Calcium Plus (200gm, 450gm or 800gm pack) at the Operation Bone Check booth.

mercury drug

DATES & MERCURY DRUG STORES:

October	1-3	Diliman (9:00am-6:00pm)
October	4-6	Retiro (10:00am-7:00pm)
October	7-9	Nepa Q Mart (9:00am-6:00pm)
October	10-12	EDSA Congressional (9:00am-6:00pm)
October	13-14	Jaka Plaza (9:00am-6:00pm)
October	15-16	España (9:00am-6:00pm)
October	17-18	Comembo (10:00am-7:00pm)
October	19-21	Ever Gotesco Commonwealth (9:00am-6:00pm)
October	22-24	Binangonan Pag-Asa (9:00am-6:00pm)
October	25-27	Blumentritt Avenida (10:00am-7:00pm)
October	28-30	Pasig San Joaquin (10:00am-7:00pm)

Why murdered husband does not contact wife

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

A DISTRESSED housewife, whom we shall call Vilma, e-mailed me several weeks ago asking if there's a possibility of contacting her husband who died suddenly and unexpectedly. She said they had not received any sign of his presence at all since he died two years ago, not his immediate family, relatives or friends.

I told her that it was sometimes possible to contact the dead, especially if there were some indications that the dead would like to communicate with the living. However, it has been my longstanding policy that if the departed does not indicate his presence or desire to communicate with the living, then he should be left in peace. To contact him would only disturb his spirit. The fact that he is completely silent means that he is now at peace in the spirit world.

Vilma e-mailed me again and said she was confused and could not understand my reply. "Since my husband was actually murdered," she explained, "how could he just keep quiet about it? How come he does not even let me feel or sense the unfairness or injustice of his death? Please excuse my persistence, but I just can't understand his silence despite what happened to him."

I know this is going to be difficult to explain and I fully understand how she feels. The problem is our lack of knowledge about what happens before, during and after death. Neither science nor religion has given us any adequate explanation of the spirit world and what happens to a person who suddenly gets catapulted into that realm. So let's try to get down to basics.

When we die, no matter whether this is a slow or sudden death, our whole life that has just passed, is paraded before us very fast but in great detail, sometimes in reverse order. We shall see what we did and what we did not do that affected other people. We shall understand or know how they felt with every word or action we have done toward them.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

From this, we will be given a chance to evaluate everything we have done. Then we will decide whether to go back to earth to make amends for what we have done, or to stay a little while in the spirit world, to learn more lessons, or become helpers to relatives and friends who are about to die to ease their transition into the spirit. All these are done with the permission of God. But please remember that under this concept, it is not God who rewards or punishes us, but we ourselves who do this. We judge ourselves. Then we go to that plane of existence where we will be most at home. Some go to the higher or finer vibratory realms; others go to lower or coarser vibrator realms. That's all there is to it. There is no St. Peter who will tell us to go to heaven or hell.

Now, there are spirits of the dead who refuse to accept that they are already dead. They are so focused on earth life that they begin to manifest to the living. They move objects, make themselves visible, talk to relatives, etc. They are what we call the earthbound spirits, or spirits who still have unfinished business on earth.

Some manifest themselves to the living to say goodbye, then they are heard no more; others to request that their spouse and children be taken care of, or to seek justice for their death. These are usually the victims of murder or any injustice. Those who die a violent death may come back because they are not aware they are dead.

The number of days the dead may manifest to the living can be immediately after death or burial, or even years after that, depending on the consciousness of the person who died. If he cannot accept his death and learn to forgive, he will remain earthbound.

However, a person who learns to forgive and accept his death may no longer manifest to living beings because he is now at peace, even if he was unjustly and brutally murdered. He may have seen the reason behind his murder when his life was paraded before him and has forgiven his assailant. This may be hard for those left behind to accept. But there are really such cases.

I have encountered a case where the dead appeared to his family only to warn them not to pursue the case against his assailant, otherwise the whole family will be wiped out. Once the family agreed not to pursue the case for the sake of the majority, the spirit became peaceful and no longer manifested himself to them. He understood that he was the sacrificial lamb who had to die in order to save his family and he was happy with that thought. So it is not inexplicable that a murdered victim may not want to manifest to the living. He may not feel the need for it.

> The dead may manifest himself to the living after death or burial, or even years after that, depending on his consciousness

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Mind-body health show features natural healing techniques

IN LINE with the Department of Tourism's "WOW Philippines Take Care of Your Health Medical Tourism" project, and in cooperation with the Philippine Convention and Visitors' Corp. and Robinsons Place Manila, the Philippine Federation of Natural Health and Environment Friendly Organizations will hold the "Mind-Body Health Show."

This exhibit will showcase various forms of natural healing techniques including reflexology and aromatherapy, herbal plants and their medicinal qualities, plus a whole array of different products and holistic health services proven to effectively improve one's health. Spearheaded by Dr. Josef de Ubaldo, DSc., an advocate of the importance of mind-body integration to achieve an overall sense of wellbeing, the exhibit will illustrate just how much of our physical health is dependent on our mental fitness, and vice versa.

"Mind-Body Health Show" will be held Oct. 27-29 at the Orosa Atrium of Robinsons Place Ermita, Manila. Ribbon-cutting is on Oct. 28, 5 p.m.

Cabinet split on resuming peace talks with Reds

Story on PAGE A2

Got a press release? Don't fax it. E-mail it!

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer just opened new e-mail addresses where you can send your press releases as well as articles and/or features you want to contribute.

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GOT/A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Colosseum aglow as RP suspends death penalty

ROME—Rome's Colosseum, once the site of bloody battles between gladiators and wild beasts, was bathed in golden light on Tuesday night to celebrate the Philippines' decision to suspend death row executions.

The Philippine government announced on Monday it had suspended all executions while Congress debates a

COLOSSEUM/A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, October 2, 2002 ★★ 64 pages / 5 sections / vol. 17 / no. 296 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Search on for 2 journalists

GMA 7 team missing in Jolo since Saturday

JOLO, Sulu—Government troops have launched a search for two television journalists who set out to interview Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages on this lawless island teeming with Moro rebels and kidnappers, officials yesterday said.

Reporter Carlo Lorenzo and cameraman Gilbert Ordiales of GMA-7 traveled four days ago to the hilly outskirts of Indanan town to interview Abu Sayyaf bandits holding three Indonesian seamen as well as four women belonging to the Jehovah's Witnesses religious group.

The two journalists, both from Metro Manila, have not been heard from since Saturday.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, deputy commander of the Southern Command, said soldiers were searching for the missing men. The former commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade based in Sulu, however, refused to provide details.

Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri also refused to confirm that Lorenzo and Ordiales had been abducted. Even so, Jikiri said he had mobilized his "assets" to find the newsmen.

The television network declined to comment publicly on the case. Other military field commanders also declared a news blackout.

"We are trying to verify the reports," an Armed Forces spokesperson based in Camp Aguinaldo told Reuters.

SEARCH/A18

SECURING an ex-President with three layers of security does not come cheap. The PNP Special Action Force (above) provides internal and close-in security at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

EDWIN BACASMAS/FILE PHOTO

Hospital bills PNP ₱6M for Erap guards

By Fe B.Zamora and JV Rufino
INQ7.net

THREE layers of security for deposed President Joseph Estrada do not come cheap.

The management of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) is charging the Philippine National Police (PNP) at least P6 million for the overhead expenses of some 100 policemen based at the hospital to secure the hospital's famous "guest."

According to acting VMMC Director Ricardo Blancaflor, the hospital perimeter is secured by policemen from the Central Police District and the internal and close-in security are provided by the Special Action Force (SAF).

The second floor of the out-patient department has been converted into a "barracks" for the policemen doing perimeter security. Policemen doing "internal security" also maintain an office near the presidential suite where Estrada is jailed with his son Jinggoy. Father and son are facing charges of plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

Blancaflor said the P6 million being charged covered the light and water consumption of the presidential suite used by the Estradas and the quarters used by the policemen since May, 11, 2001. On that day Estrada was transferred from his detention house in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, to the VMMC.

"We are not charging the former President. We are charging this to the PNP which has custo-

HOSPITAL/A18

'Baguio vegetables' come from Australia

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

GLOBALIZATION has allowed 14 importers led by Rustan's Supermarket to bring in 266 tons of "semi-temperate" vegetables in the first nine months of the year, causing huge losses to farmers in the Cordillera and other areas who produce the same crops.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said 93 percent of the imported vegetables, known locally as "Baguio vegetables," came from Australia, which has a brewing agricultural trade dispute with the Philippines. The rest came from the United States.

BAGUIO/A19

'Make guards serve terms of escapees'

By Christine Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

A LAWMAKER yesterday said jail authorities whose prisoners manage to escape during their watch should be given a penalty equivalent to that handed down to the escapees.

House Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla made the call in a resolution seeking an inquiry into the escape Sunday of suspected drug trafficker Henry Tan, a Xiamen

MAKE/A19

Roco sums up disenchantment with Gloria, Mike, etc.

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

THE DISENCHANTMENT of Raul Roco with President Macapagal-Arroyo was summed up by the man who says he's "definitely" running in the presidential elections in 2004:

"Under the administration, the symbol of political wisdom is (presidential adviser) Joey Rufino, the symbol of political expertise is (First Gentleman) Mike Arroyo with the advice of (former Estrada official) Ronnie Puno, and the symbol of economic magic probably will be the (scandal-plagued) Public Estates Authority," Roco said.

"Judge whether those three are excellent markers for the administration," he added.

"Definitely" was Roco's quick answer when asked yesterday by the INQUIRER if he would seek the presidency in the coming election.

The former education secretary said he decided to go for it because students in the cities of Manila, Cebu and Iloilo had been urging him to. "I get the impression that the young people are looking for a candidate, and I will stand by them," he said.

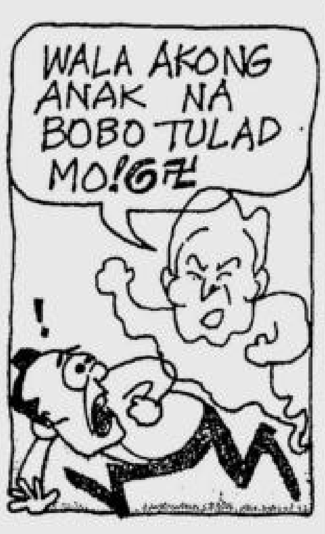
But Roco, who flew to Bacolod City to attend the blessing and inauguration of the West Negros College Audio-Visual Center, stressed that his decision did not mean that he was breaking away from the People Power Coalition.

"The coalition, if asked, may choose another candidate," he said. "There is no franchise, there is no monopoly…It's a coalition. You can select the best talent."

He pointed out that the PPC is not just the Lakas-NUCD, of which Ms Macapagal is the titular head, but is also composed of other parties—Promdi headed by former Cebu Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmeña, Reporma led by former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, and his own party, Aksyon Demokratiko.

Roco expressed the belief that,

ROCO/A19



WALA AKONG ANAK NA BOBO TULAD MO!

Fake Marcos, bogus gold, real jail time

NEW YORK—It turned out that neither his word nor his bank account were as good as gold.

So Edilberto del Carmen, who had used the alias Edilberto Marcos and pretended to be the son of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, pleaded guilty to passing bogus gold certificates, federal prosecutors said Monday.

In all, Del Carmen pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy, two counts of securities fraud and one count of unlawful possession of a weapon on Friday, interrupting his trial in Manhattan federal court.

FAKE/A18

Mark Jimenez has become a higher flight risk—DOJ

By Juliet L. Javellana

MANILA Rep. Mark Jimenez has become a "higher flight risk" as a result of the Supreme Court's cancellation of the P1-million bail he posted with the Manila Regional Trial Court, Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez told a joint House inquiry yesterday.

Gutierrez said this was the reason the Department of Justice asked the Manila Regional Trial Court to immediately issue a warrant for Jimenez's arrest without waiting for him to appeal the Supreme Court decision in 15 days.

Nearly all the 30 House members, who attended the joint hearing of the committees on justice and foreign relations, assailed the Supreme Court ruling and the DOJ's "eagerness" to jail Jimenez, prompting Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos to lament that "this is not Congress' finest hour."

"In all extradition cases, there's that presumption of flight ... and the higher the flight risk is when there is an adverse decision," Gutierrez said when Rep. Jacinto Paras asked why Jimenez was deemed a flight risk.

Referring to five Filipinos facing extradition to the United States while languishing in National Bureau of Investigation detention centers, Gutierrez said: "The fact that they left the country where they are facing charges is flight, so it's an international practice that bail is not given."

She defended the DOJ's opposition to bail for Jimenez and others facing extradition, saying the government was only complying with its treaty obligation.

Jimenez, who stayed throughout the three-hour hearing, asked the DOJ to produce evidence that he was extraditable. He also asked why the Supreme Court came up with the ruling only after one year and two months if he was a flight risk.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said it was better to stop the arrest of Jimenez because the high court's decision was flawed.

"We are not defying the Supreme Court, we are only invoking the principle of check and balance," he said.

Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles questioned why the

MARK/A19

MARKING time with a lot of help from House colleagues, Rep. Mark Jimenez stays put at the three-hour joint hearing of the committees on justice and foreign affairs.

JOAN BONDOC

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/02/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains,
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

DOVES VS HAWKS IN CABINET

Palace men split on talks with Reds

By Carlito Pablo and Martin P. Marfil

ADMINISTRATION officials are said to be divided into antagonistic camps of "hawks" and "doves" on the issue of whether to continue to pursue peace talks with the communist rebels in the face of a renewed offensive by the New People's Army.

A source privy to the debate identified three of the so-called hawks—the ones who want to junk the negotiations—as Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, national security adviser Roilo Golez and Col. Victor Corpus, the chief of the Armed Forces intelligence service.

Ranged against them are the doves consisting of, among others, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Interior Secretary Jose Lina, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, Presidential Management Staff chief Silvestre Afable and Norberto Gonzales, the presidential adviser for special concerns.

The NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has stepped up attacks recently, ambushing military vehicles and raiding police stations disguised as soldiers or lawmen in the provinces of Leyte, Bulacan, Compostela Valley and Quezon.

But after the series of successful rebel offensives, the military scored Monday night, killing two guerrillas in a clash in Cuyapo town in Nueva Ecija.

Golez admitted at a press briefing yesterday that there was an internal debate going on now although he said the door to negotiations was "still open".

According to the source who spoke on condition of anonymity, Reyes questioned how the government could explain its support for the United States declaration classifying the Communist Party as a terrorist organization and yet continue peace negotiations, "considering the government's own policy that it doesn't negotiate with terrorists".

Corpus did not believe the insurgents, who are represented in the negotiations by the National Democratic Front, were sincere in pursuing a negotiated settlement to the 34-year old communist insurgency, the source said.

As a young Army lieutenant in the early 1970s, Corpus had defected to the CPP-NPA but, disenchanted with the movement, returned to the government fold some years later. After being reinstated in the service, Corpus wrote two books on how to combat the communist insurgency.

According to the source, Golez expressed reservations about the draft of a final peace agreement that was prepared by the government's negotiating panel led by former justice secretary Silvestre Bello III.

Golez, who is a graduate of the US naval academy in Annapolis, Virginia, found the draft proposal too radical while Romulo thought it generally acceptable," the source said.

The draft proposal supposedly seeks to address the root causes of the insurgency and includes provisions for socio-economic, political and electoral reforms.

"Golez's impression was that the draft was prepared not by the government panel but by the NDF," the source said.

The Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security is to finish the review of the draft this week before it is either approved or junked by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

War will be swift, Palace told

By Dona Pazzibugan

SWIFT and decisive—it would be over in a matter of days.

This was the assessment of Philippine officials of a United States-led war against Iraq.

And best of all, said the officials who attended a joint Cabinet-National Security Council meeting at Malacañang, the war would be contained to Iraq and not affect the one million Filipinos who work in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, the government has allocated P200 million for the evacuation of Filipinos should an emergency arise.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday's meeting also went over plans to ensure a steady oil supply for the country.

"Based on an evaluation of various scenarios, we believe there is no cause for undue alarm," she said.

But to build up the country's oil supply, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said oil firms would be asked to increase their in-country reserves to 40 days instead of the usual 12.

He said this was "to make sure we have reserves before (world oil prices) fluctuate in the event of (war)."

The President also said a massive evacuation of Filipino workers like the one that occurred during the first US-Iraq war in 1991 was unlikely.

Relocation to safer ground would be enough this time, she said.

Golez said the US' advanced technology, weaponry and "overwhelming force" would bring about a swift end to any war.

Just days, not weeks

"If at all, we expect a war to be very swift, just days and not weeks or months," he said.

But Golez said the NSC was assuming that "any attack (on Iraq) would come with the approval of the United Nations Security Council."

The US is urging the Security Council to approve a proposed resolution requiring Iraq to comply with new arms inspection within 30 days or face military action.

Iraq has rejected the proposed draft.

Citing recent talks with top American officials, Golez said the US would not likely take any action against Iraq in the next two months.

"We do not expect the actual conflict to start in October and it is unlikely to start in November because of Ramadan. Beyond that, we don't know," he said.

Others present at the meeting were Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Senators Robert Barbers, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Manuel Villar and Loren Legarda-Leviste; Representatives Florencio Abad, Raul Gonzales, Gerry Salapuddin, Francis Escudero, Butz Aquino and Apolinario Lozada; PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and former President Corazon Aquino.

Duty Free goods added to deficit —Recto

By Cynthia D. Balana

DUTY-FREE products have contributed to the country's huge budget deficit.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate committee of ways and means, said the Bureau of Customs earlier blamed their poor collection performance on the higher volume of non-dutiable imports this year.

The BOC missed its target of P63.514 billion for the first six months of the year by P11.249 billion, having raised only P52.265 billion.

In a report to Congress, BOC said non-dutiable imports accounted for 60 percent of total goods coming in through Philippines ports, up from 58 percent last year.

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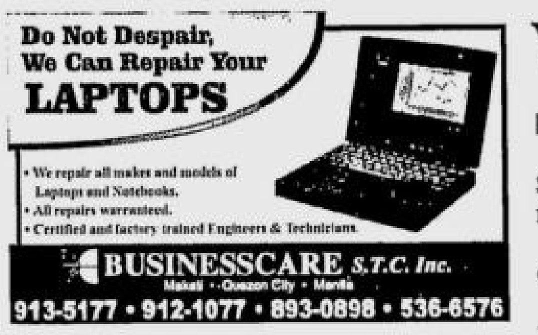

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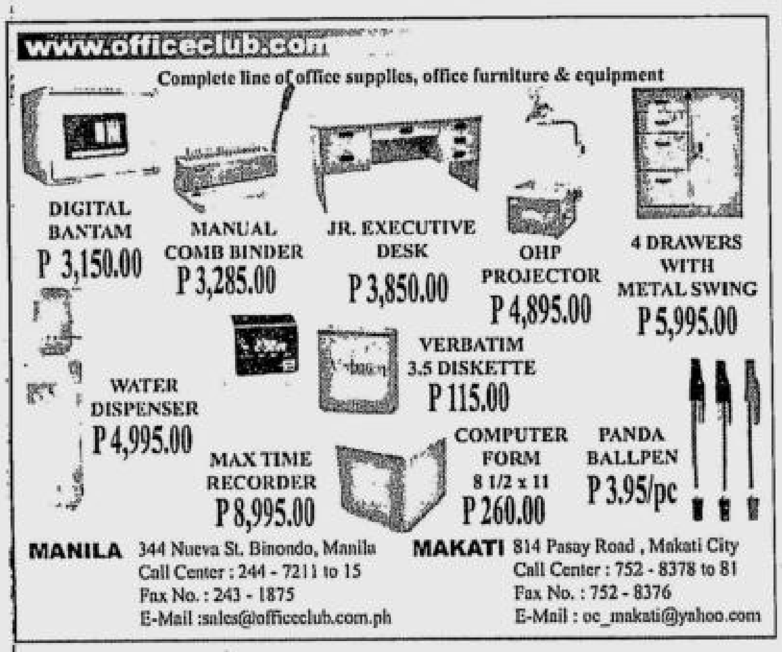

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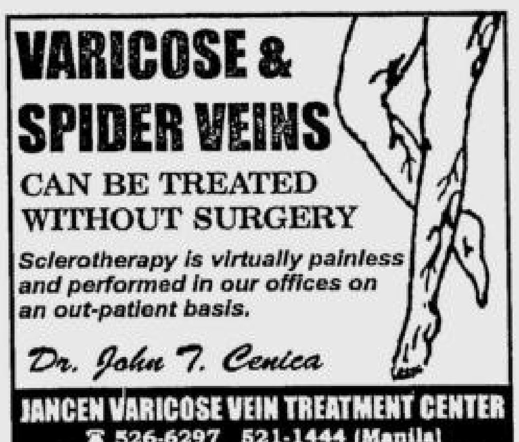

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PEA execs face graft raps over road scam

OFFICIALS implicated in the alleged P600 million overprice of the President Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. face criminal investigation on top of the administrative probe being conducted by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC).

PAGC chair Dario Rama yesterday said he would forward the documents on the case to the Ombudsman's office which will handle "the criminal aspect."

"We deal only with the administrative aspect of cases referred to us," Rama said in an interview.

"It will be up to the Ombudsman to determine whether cases will be prosecuted before the appropriate courts," he said.

Rama is scheduled to interview today Sulficio Tagud Jr., the director of the Public Estates Authority (PEA), who blew the whistle on the alleged scam involving PEA officials and contractor Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction.

He will also be interviewing PEA officials led by chair Ernest Villareal.

The PAGC has been given 60 days to wrap up its probe and submit its recommendations.

Tagud's report on the alleged scam and the documents that the PEA board submitted to explain their side were referred by Malacañang to PAGC on Sept. 25.

Tagud, Villareal and the entire PEA board have gone on an indefinite leave while the investigation is going on.

The Senate has indicated its willingness to investigate the alleged overpricing.

Sen. Ramon Revilla yesterday said his committee on public works and highways was ready to take the lead in the investigation of "probably Asia's most expensive stretch of the road," along with the blue ribbon committee of Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Revilla said he has formed a team of engineers to conduct tests to verify whether claims that the reclaimed area where the road was built needed to be reinforced and the asphalt used especially made, thereby justifying the price adjustment.

The militant Pamalakaya fisherfolk group yesterday asked Tagud to reveal the role of the Office of the President in the alleged overpricing of the 5.1-kilometer asphalt road named after the President's late father.

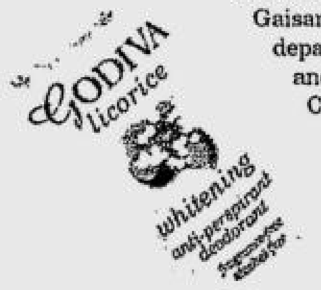
Fernando Hicap, the group's chair, said the Office of the President was "primarily liable and therefore should be included in the charge sheet."

Pamalakaya secretary general Noli Serrano accused Malacañang of attempting to limit the investigation to PEA officials to save the Office of the President.

Opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta claimed that Malacañang was downplaying calls for a lifestyle check on top PEA executives for fear that the controversy could snowball and reach the Palace.

Bunye was quoted as saying that a lifestyle check on the PEA officials was unnecessary as all government officials are expected to live within their means.

Oreta said the Palace should not just brush aside the claims of PEA rank-and-file employees that their executives had taken out million-peso car loans and given themselves allowances amounting to as much as P40,000 a month each. *Reports from Carlito Pablo, Gerald Lacuarta and Cynthia D. Balana*



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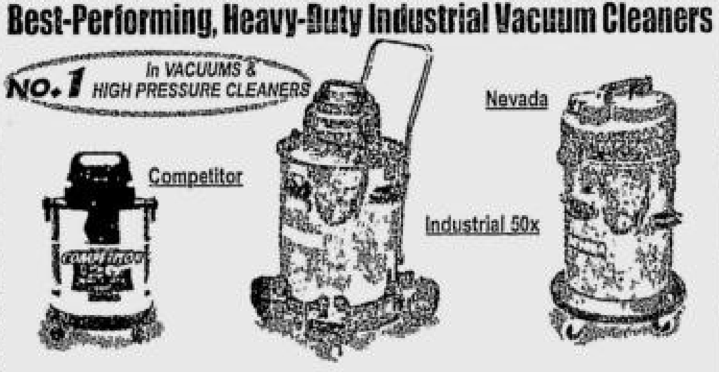

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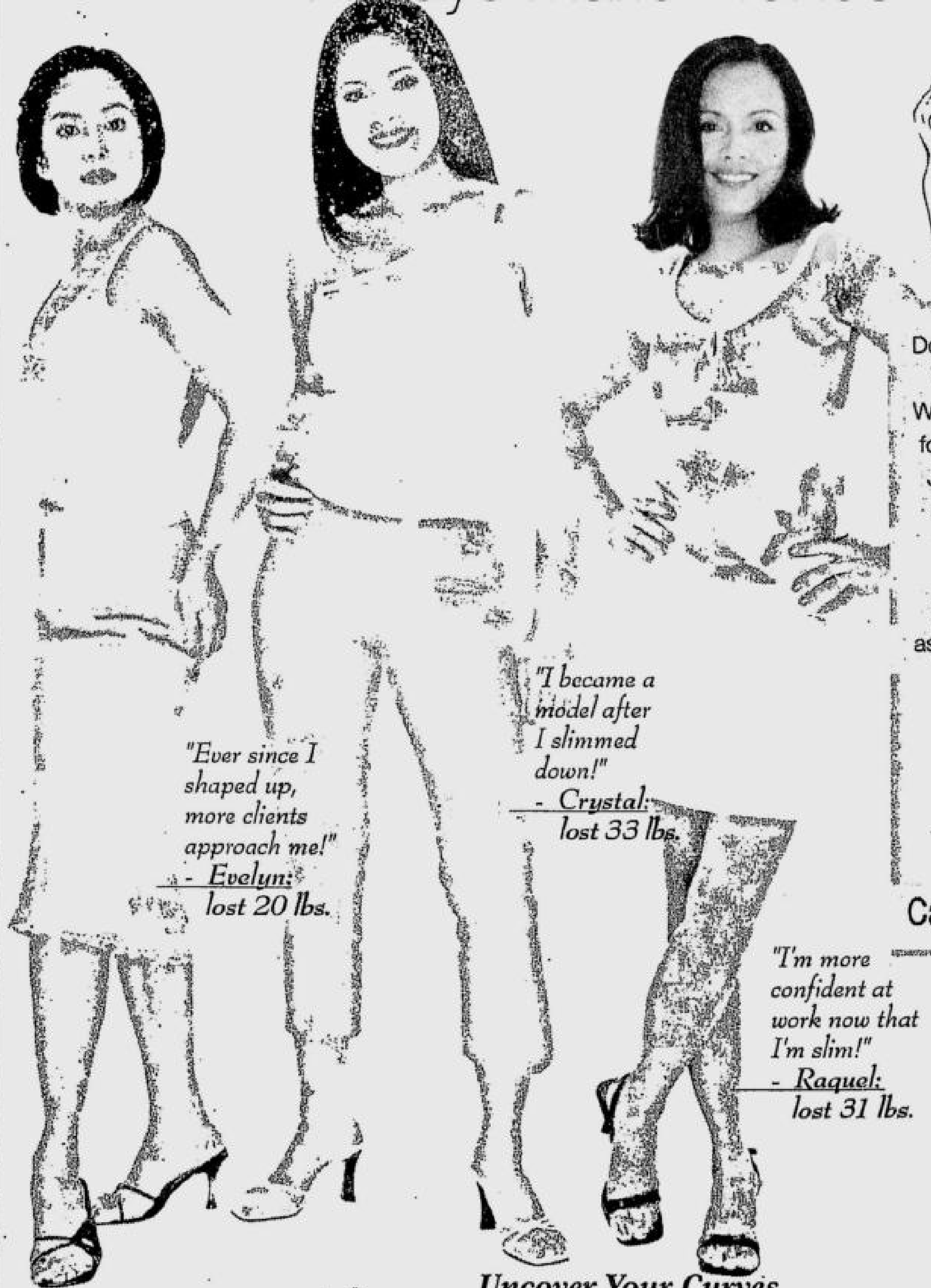
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POWER GRAB OR GIVEAWAY?

Lopezes begged Marcos to take Meralco–Enrile

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NEITHER the late President Ferdinand Marcos nor his people had a hand in the Lopez family's selling out of the Manila Electric Co. because the Lopezes themselves "begged" the government to take Meralco.

This is according to former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who said during the Kapihan sa Manila Hotel on Monday that the sale would have happened regardless of whether or not Eugenio Lopez Jr. was detained.

Enrile reiterated that neither Marcos nor his brother-in-law, former Ambassador Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, who "had the reputation of running Meralco," hatched the idea of taking the power utility away from the Lopezes.

"Don Eugenio himself brought up the idea," he said.

Enrile, who was the defense minister under Marcos, added that as early as 1971, the Lopez group had been having problems with the amortization of its loans from local and and international banks.

Enrile said he and Lopez Sr. met between late October and early November of 1972, shortly after martial law was declared in September. He said Lopez asked him to inform President Marcos that the Lopezes wanted to divest themselves of their interests in Meralco and the ABS-CBN television network.

Not under duress

The former senator said the meeting happened between early October and early November of 1972. He said Eugenio Jr. was arrested in November 27 of that year.

Enrile refuted the Lopezes' assertion that Eugenio Sr. signed the papers on Meralco's sale "under duress" because the military had detained Eugenio Jr.

In a statement dated Sept. 23, Oscar Lopez, another son of Eugenio Sr. who now heads the Lopez group of companies, said what happened to his family in the months following the declaration of martial law on Sept. 21,1972 was something similar to a kidnap-for-ransom situation.

"(Enrile), the martial law administrator acting for the mastermind of the kidnap-for-ransom gang, was keeping my brother Geny hostage at Fort Bonifacio and military personnel under General Gatmaitan had taken over Meralco and all its facilities," he said.

Oscar added: "What is an old sick man like my father to do? Anyone in that situation would sign anything under such duress."

But Enrile denied being the administrator of martial law. "I participated (in its implementation) but President Marcos was the administrator. We were just subalterns."

Asked why he is coming out with his "expose" only now, Enrile said: "There is no 'right time' for truth. Truth is still truth even after a hundred years."

On Monday, Enrile distributed copies of six documents which he said proved that the Lopezes themselves planned the sale of Meralco.

He challenged the Lopezes to prove that the documents were made under pressure from the Marcos administration.

"I got hold of these letters and memoranda because I was the Secretary of Defense," Enrile explained.

He said the documents showed that the Lopezes were bent on selling Meralco and actually had several plans on realizing this.

Enrile said one plan involved exchanging Meralco Securities Corp.'s (MSC) 33-percent stake in the utility for government bonds. He said this plan was an idea of MSC chair Alfredo Montelibano.

LOPEZ

In 1978,the MSC became known as First Philippine Holdings Corp.

In a letter to his parents (which Enrile said was written between February and March of 1973), Oscar Lopez told his father Eugenio Sr. that Montelibano's plan would be attractive to the Marcos administration because it could be a way to finance the land reform program.

Under this plan, the government would acquire the assets and would assume Meralco's obligations totaling about P1 billion.

The young Lopez said that the Marcos administration could ask the governments of Meralco's creditors to have the loans become a government-to-government affair. Meanwhile, shares of stock worth as much as P2 billion could be issued to the dispossessed landlords.

Oskie's plan

However, Enrile said that Oscar Lopez pushed for another plan—to transfer the Meralco shares to a trust that would guarantee Meralco's debts.

Oscar Lopez told Eugenio Sr: "Although we have presented you the voting trust as an alternative plan, it will be wiser under the circumstances to allow (Montelibano) to continue pursuing his proposal with the government and see how far he can go with it."

Enrile said further that while the Lopezes' first two plans did not prosper, a third plan to unload was finally adopted and implemented.

"This is the sale of the Lopezes' Meralco shares to a foundation (Meralco Foundation) that would assume all of Meralco's liabilities," he said.

But the Foundation was dissolved after Marcos was toppled and the Lopezes regained control of Meralco.

Enrile questioned the Aquino administration for allowing this to happen and succeeding administrations for "not correcting" the situation.

Asked how the government could regain control of the utility, Enrile said: "If it is for GMA (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) to act. She is the President, not me."

He said government control was a guarantee to actually lower electricity prices.

When asked for comment, Meralco president Jesus Francisco declined to do so.

"(The Meralco management) has enough real problems to concentrate on," Francisco said in a telephone interview.

He said Enrile's assertions have been answered by the Lopez family's statement, which speaks for itself.

Garchitorena granted 'graceful exit' by SC

By Michael Lim Ubac

RELIEVED Sandiganbayan chair Francis Garchitorena is getting the graceful exit that he sought in lieu of being sacked.

During a full-court session, the high tribunal yesterday approved Garchitorena's application for optional retirement effective at "at the close of office hours" on Friday, Sept. 27.

The Supreme Court earlier threatened "more severe disciplinary measures" if Garchitorena failed to dispose of his backlog of cases last Monday.

But while it decided to let him, the SC said the 64-year-old ex-justice's retirement benefits would be "subject to availability of funds."

Also granted by the high court was Garchitorena's request that members of his staff whose appointments were co-terminus with his be allowed to stay until the end of this month, "so that they might be able to make appropriate arrangements for their own future in an orderly fashion."

The SC decision is expected to end the controversy that, even Garchitorena admitted, had embarrassed the judiciary, particularly the Sandiganbayan.

In an interview on Friday, Garchitorena admitted that the episode had humbled him. He jested that he might consider working as a cabbie, "since I know the streets of Manila very well." But considering his legal career that spanned almost 40 years, he said returning to private law practice was a good option, too.

On Nov. 28 last year, the SC relieved Garchitorena of his duties as Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice and chair of the anti-graft court's First Division, and gave him six months to write decisions on 43 pending cases.

In his three-page letter to the SC (coursed through Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.) last Friday, Garchitorena said he had managed to resolve only 21 of the cases to date.

"Under the circumstances . . . (with) 22 cases still to be disposed of," he said there was no way he could reasonably comply with the high court's requirements.

The "non-extendable" Sept. 30 date was set in a resolution dated Aug. 13, 2002, after the former Sandigan chief appealed for more time as early as May 30.

Garchitorena said his case had drawn unfavorable public attention to himself and the higher levels of the judiciary "and an even stronger focus upon the appellate courts."

He then asked, "to spare the judiciary from further criticisms," that he be allowed to retire, six years ahead of the mandatory retirement age of 70 for court officials. He said it was best "to remove the problem altogether, namely myself."

The perennial backlog of cases at Sandigan, including the still-unresolved suits on the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth, has been blamed in part on Garchitorena, who served a total of 16 years with the anti-graft court.

Garchitorena previously said his failure to dispose of cases in his sala had been caused by foot surgeries, his "continuing indisposition," as well as rains and floods that had prevented some of his staff members from reporting for work.

The SC declared these explanations "unsatisfactory."

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Strunk gets 15-day reprieve from DOJ

By Michael Lim Ubac

LAWYERS for Roger Strunk and Phillip Medel Jr. have succeeded in getting a 15-day delay in the preliminary investigation into the Nida Blanca murder case from the Department of Justice.

At yesterday's hearing at the DOJ, Senior State Prosecutor Archimedez Manabat gave Strunk's lawyer Alma Mallonga and Medel's attorney Salvador Panelo until Oct. 21 to submit their clients' answers to the charges filed against them.

Mallonga said Strunk, who is in the United States, will definitely answer the charges lodged against him in the killing of Blanca, his wife of 22 years.

"We will file a counter-affidavit," said Mallonga, adding that her client was kept informed of developments in the case "every step of the way."

Strunk flew to the US early this year to see his dying mother.

In Ozamiz City, the NBI called on local authorities to tighten security for a former soldier who had claimed he was the intended original assassin of Blanca.

Lawyer Oscar Tomarong, NBI agent-in-charge for the region that includes Ozamiz City, said three unidentified armed men had tried to kill Meliton Vizcaya on Friday.

Vizcaya, who said he was the first person asked to kill the popular actress, was shot at close range at a neighbor's wake. He suffered a wound in the lower jaw and is being treated at an undisclosed hospital. *With Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lastimoso cleared of graft in drug-testing deal

FORMER Philippine National Police chief Roberto Lastimoso has been cleared of graft charges over the controversial P3.6-billion drug testing contract between the PNP and Mahogany Medical and Pharmaceutical Supplies Inc.

The Sandiganbayan dropped Lastimoso from the list of accused that included former Interior Undersecretary Ronaldo Puno and then PNP Deputy Director Rodolfo Vejano.

The anti-graft court's 4th Division said the prosecution failed to prove that Lastimoso was party to an allegedly lopsided contract.

In February 2000, the Ombudsman sued Puno *et al* "for conspiring to extend undue favors" to Mahogany at terms disadvantageous to the government.

The alleged conspiracy involved a March 1999 agreement amending the original December 1996 contract for the nationwide conduct of drug tests on all police personnel, security guards and gun license applicants.

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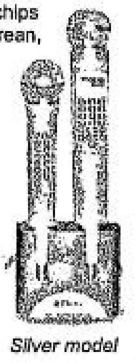

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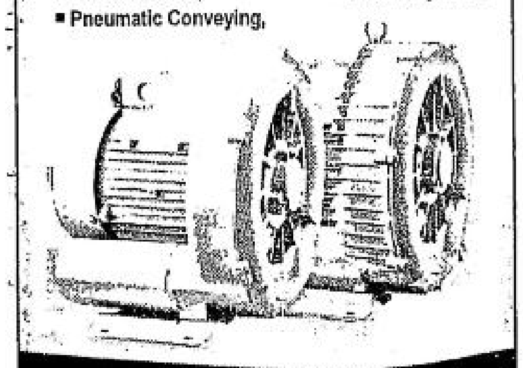

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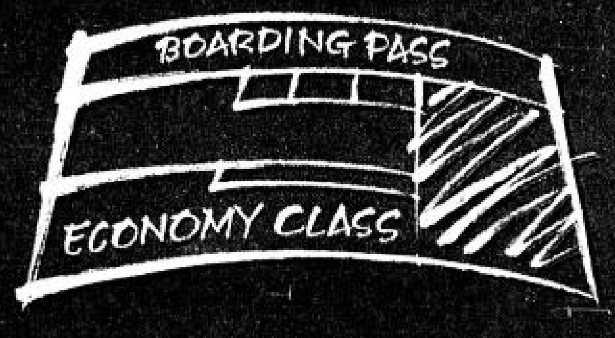

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Pattern of corruption

EDITORIAL

IF he was looking for support, Sulficio Tagud Jr. could not have found better allies than the 15 civil society groups that have signified their intention to sign up as complainants in the plunder case he will file against corrupt officials of the Public Estates Authority. Most of these groups, including Bayan and the Council for Philippine Affairs, were among the first to rally behind then Gov. Luis Singson when he started exposing corruption in the Estrada administration. Having been in the forefront of the successful struggle to bring down a president, they should find the PEA to be much easier pickings.

This time they don't have to mobilize hundreds of thousands of people to march in the streets. All they have to do is gather the necessary documents and present them to court.

The case against the PEA officials, led by board chair Vincent Villareal and president Benjamin Cariño, looks quite simple and straightforward. According to Tagud, by approving the contract (and subsequent changes) to build a portion of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard at the Manila Bay reclamation area, the PEA officials caused the government to lose as much as P600 million—possibly more.

Villareal has admitted that the road is "expensive" but denied that it is "overpriced," as Tagud, a member of the PEA board, has charged. Villareal makes this fine distinction in an effort to explain that the astronomical cost of the project stemmed from the complexity and difficulty of construction rather than the wages of corruption.

The original contract signed in 1999 said that JD Legaspi Construction would build a 2.3-kilometer section of the boulevard for P584.3 million. To date, the PEA has paid JDLC a total of P837 million. The much higher cost was justified by some change orders, cost escalation and other modifications in the contract approved by the PEA board. At that price, this short stretch of asphalt road is probably the most expensive ever to have been built in this graft-ridden country.

However, showing a project is costly is not the same as proving it is tainted with corruption, right? But the beauty of this case is that there is an unassailable basis for price comparison.

The entire boulevard is 5.5-km long. JDLC built only 2.3 km, covering both ends. And how do the costs compare? D.M. Wenceslao built a 1.8-km section for P102 million or P86,000 per linear meter. SM built 1.4 km at a cost of P77 million or P54,000 per linear meter. And how much did JDLC bill the government for the 2.3 km that it built? A total of P699 million or P302,000 per linear meter—almost six times what SM charged.

The same pattern of overpricing can be seen in the construction of bridges with SM charging the PEA P552,000 per linear meter, another contractor P1.1 million, and JDLC P1.9 million.

The reason PEA officials and JDLC gave for the much higher costs was that the portions it got were not well compacted and so there was a lot more work and materials put into the construction. What an unhappy—or happy—coincidence to have both ends of the same road poorly prepared.

It would be interesting to find out out if there is a justice in the Sandiganbayan who will swallow that line.

In the meantime, Tagud and his new allies should waste no time filing the case. If they tarry any longer, they might find their adversaries sitting in the House of Representatives, firmly convinced that they are beyond the reach of the law.

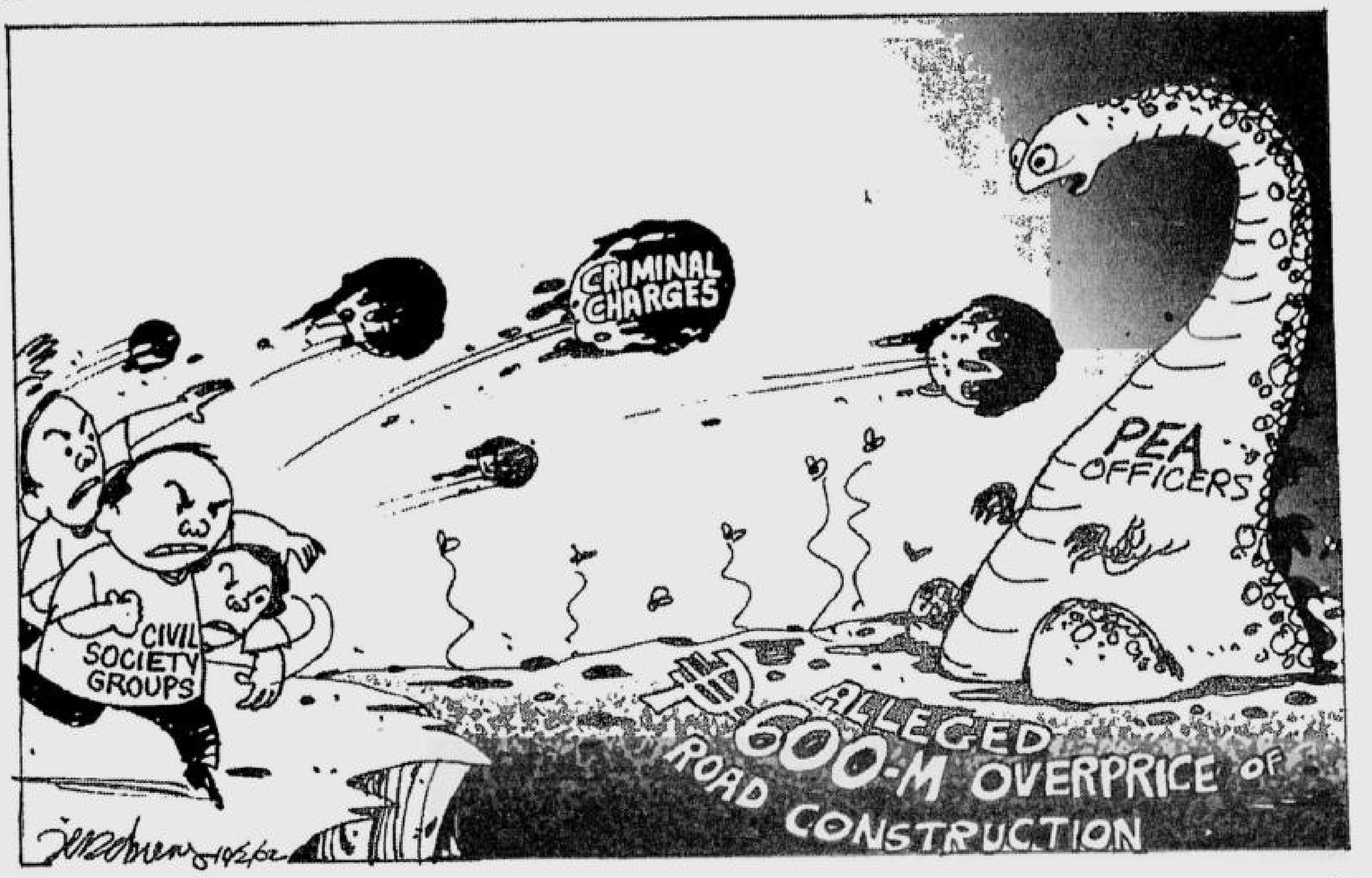
No wish for justice

FOREIGN COMMENT

HE has weapons with massive destruction capacity, threatens neighboring countries and is implacable with domestic opposition. This description is valid for Saddam Hussein, but it is also for Jiang Zemin, China's top leader; Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's president and Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. So, why is the United States threatening Saddam with a military attack while other leaders, with a similar background, are treated as allies and enjoy a preferential trade partner status? There are several answers for this question, but it is certain that the wish to "bring justice" cannot be included among President George W. Bush's main motivations.

Even if the US stance has some rationality, it is not exempt of risk. Its effect on terror is doubtful, for instance. On the practical side, it could further undermine the Middle East's stability. The impact on oil prices would not be insignificant. It could even strain US relations with key allies in the West.

Folha De Sao Paulo (Brazil)



Why not just repeal the 'no bail' decree?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CONGRESSMEN are the most confused people in the Philippines—and never more so than in the case of one of their own, Rep. Mark Jimenez. They say that the Supreme Court decision cancelling his bail is a violation of his basic rights under the Constitution. But it is the congressmen themselves who have been violating the Constitution with impunity for years.

The Constitution defines the duties and responsibilities of the three branches of government. Congress makes the laws, the Supreme Court interprets them and the Executive implements them. But what are the congressmen doing? They are not only legislating, they are also usurping the functions of the Executive and the Judiciary.

They act as a de-facto Department of Public Works and Highways by identifying and supervising the construction of public works projects in their districts. They spend the budgets for roads and bridges and other public works projects. They usurp other functions of the Executive when the Constitution does not tell them to do that.

The Constitution assigned the duty of interpreting the law to the Supreme Court. But now the congressmen are usurping that function, too. The Supreme Court said existing laws and treaties don't allow bail for persons like Jimenez who are sought for extradition. But the congressmen have their own interpretation. They said the high court is wrong, Jimenez is entitled to bail.

The Supreme Court en banc cannot be wrong in the interpration of the laws. What it says about any law is the final word on it. It becomes the law of the land. Until the tribunal itself reverses its own decision, that interpretation stays.

The only thing that Congress can do to render a law invalid is to repeal it, not arrest any person who tries to enforce that law as part of his duties. It is the congressmen themselves who enact the laws, yet they are often the first to violate them.

Take the case of the bail of Congressman Jimenez. Why should a mere treaty tell us to deny bail to our own citizens? they ask. There is no such provision in our extradition treaty with the United States. It is our own law that has that provision. President Marcos issued a presidential decree as an enabling law to the treaty. And that PD said "no bail." So that's what the Supreme Court said of the pertinent law: No bail. It cannot say otherwise because the law is very clear.

If the congressmen love Jimenez that much, they can always repeal the Marcos decree. If the Senate agrees with them and the President signs the repealing bill, then the "no bail" provision ceases to exist. Jimenez can be freed on bail.

But laws are prospective, not retroactive. Meaning, they apply to future cases, not to past ones.

Yes, but laws always favor the accused. For example, if a law is passed repealing the death penalty, that law will have a retroactive effect on all death convicts. That repeal will benefit all death convicts even if they got their sentences before the repealing law was passed. The same is true with the "no bail" decision on Jimenez. He would immediately be entitled to bail once Congress repeals the "no bail" decree and the President approves it.

If the House of Representatives hurries the filing and processing of the repealing bill, Rep. Marcelino Libanan, chair of the justice committee, estimates that it can be passed in two weeks. Give it another week in the Senate and the "no bail" decree can be repealed in three weeks—assuming of course that President Macapagal-Arroyo will sign it.

The Supreme Court is in recess right now. Many of its justices are abroad. By the time they come back and resume sessions, the repealing law will have been passed and Jimenez would be free as a bird.

That is the way to do it, my dear congressmen, not by disobeying the Supreme Court, creating a constitutional crisis and undermining the Judiciary.

By the way, there are other persons, Filipinos and foreigners, facing extradition cases now detained without bail in the detention center of the National Bureau of Investigation. They are exactly similar cases as that of Jimenez. Why did the congressmen not speak out for them before? Only when it was one of their own who was put in the same situation did they wake up and champion the cause of accused Filipinos. Why?

Because the congressmen are not really protecting Jimenez. They are protecting themselves. The same thing may happen to them in the future and they do not want the Jimenez case to be a precedent of a congressman being—horrors!—detained without bail. It is bad enough that another notorious colleague, former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, was stripped of his congressional seat and sent to prison without the House being able to stop it. Now this Jimenez case puts congressmen more at risk.

And that's bad.

Heaven help the OFWs

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

QUITE frighteningly, no one seems able to appreciate the horrendous consequences to our overseas Filipino workers of a possible outbreak of war in Iraq. Or indeed more than to our OFWs to us, for whom the OFWs have become as blood is to a vampire.

Our reactions have ranged from the flippant to the reckless. The first thing I saw when I got back was an item in the newspaper that said Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon was hopeful the war clouds in Iraq would bring a tide of tourists to this country. The reason for this apparently was that the Philippines now being the only safe haven for Americans and their allies, they would flock here rather than elsewhere. A truly bizarre notion, suggesting as it does that a conflagration of that scale will not deter travel in general, particularly travel for leisure. Gordon should publish his theory of the differential effects of war on global tourism posthaste as it is completely original, though I don't know that anyone would buy it.

Yet another astounding thing I saw when I got back was an item on TV that said some groups were demanding that we exclude Saudi Arabia as a point of destination for OFWs because of the abuses being committed by Saudi Arabian employers against Filipinos. I saw Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas being interviewed on TV on the subject, and she was horrified at the suggestion. As well any thinking Filipino should. We have documented cases of abuse, she said, by all means let us complain about them to Saudi authorities. But to say that we should have nothing to do with Saudi Arabia, that is passing judgment on an entire country as evil. And that is inviting catastrophe for us.

I share her fears completely. We have 3 million OFWs abroad, a breathtaking number (every time people asked me abroad what our main export was, I said without hesitation, "People"; I wasn't being entirely facetious), and a quarter of them are in Saudi Arabia. True, rape and maltreatment against Filipinos happen there, and we should protest them vigorously when they do. But why we should be so cavalier toward a country that has so far shown us only goodwill, I'll never know. Coming on top of our unofficial downgrading of our relations with the OIC, alongside our unofficial upgrading of our relations with the United States, embracing without question its "war against terror," we're openly asking for trouble. These things, quite incidentally, have not escaped the notice of Saudi officials who have expressed unhappiness over them.

Now, what can happen to us if war should break out in Iraq? We seem to think that the problem is merely one of finding ways to evacuate our OFWs who will find themselves in harm's way. There is that of course, which is already a big headache in itself. But there's more. So much more.

Unlike the Gulf War a decade ago, George Bush's impending war against Iraq cannot escape being seen as anti-Muslim by the Muslim countries. Opposition to that war is fierce in that part of the world—the original coalition against terror that had Jordan and Saudi Arabia as its Islamic pillars has folded up. Saudi Arabia has said flatly it would not allow its territory to be used as a staging area in that war, unlike a decade ago when it did. There is one further, more thorny, complication, as pointed out by analysts in BBC last week.

That is the complication posed by Israel's continuing siege of Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah. That siege has drawn bitter condemnation from all over the world. Jordan, which had stood foursquare behind Bush and Blair on Afghanistan has spoken ferociously against it. It is not merely that Bush's tepid response to it shows up the double standards of his position on Iraq—the UN has never been able to enforce its sanctions on Israel, or even send an inspection team to assess its human rights abuses in its earlier campaign in the West Bank—it is also that the Muslim world sees it as a tacit encouragement of Israel. Should Saddam Hussein play that card, attacking Israel in the event of an American attack on Baghdad, and provoking a response from it (as it is likely to), then the United States would appear as working in tandem with Israel against a Muslim country. And by extension against the Muslim world as a whole.

That is fraught with the most serious consequences for us, and for our OFWs in particular who are in the frontline in more ways than one. A military campaign that has an anti-Muslim bias cannot be helpful—to use a word favored by Bush and Rumsfeld—to those who are allied to it who have interests in the Muslim world. The problem is not merely relocating our overseas workers, it is finding ways to prevent them from being objects of monumental discrimination. The kind we ourselves practice against our Muslim brethren in the South. At the very least, it is not inconceivable to see that market for our labor drying up—which ironically should realize the dreams of those who want us to scorn Saudi Arabia completely. Truly, be careful what you wish for, you might just get it! At the very most, it is not inconceivable that the OFWs who are already there will be repatriated outright back to us.

Already, other countries are looking at us askance. That is the first thing you notice when you go out of it, how utterly isolated we are from the rest of the world. Europe doesn't share our enthusiasm for the kind of projects Bush has in mind, and certainly not Asia. You will be at pains to find an Asian who shares our belief in the wisdom of America's belligerence on Iraq—and none of them has an overseas population residing in the Muslim world that rivals ours. Not even Sri Lanka or Bangladesh. And all we can think of is that that war will be good for our tourism?

Our capacity for flirting with suicide knows no bounds.

The anarchy of democracy

THE EXUBERANCE of Philippine democracy leapt out like a swirling dervish when members of Congress threatened a "constitutional crisis" over the cancellation by the Supreme Court of the P1-million bail Rep. Mark Jimenez had posted on his extradition case.

The Court held that Jimenez could not post bail and must be jailed until the Manila Regional Trial Court trying the deportation case, hands down a decision. The United States has asked the Department of Justice to extradite Jimenez—he had been indicted of conspiracy to defraud the US government, tax evasion, wire fraud, making false statements and illegal campaign contribution to the Democratic Party.

The cancellation of the bail cleared the way for the detention of a member of Congress in jail while his case is being heard, and sent the lawmakers into a frenzy of delirious reactions ranging from arresting those who would arrest Jimenez, impeaching the Supreme Court justices and disputing the legal basis of the ruling with legal arguments tangential to the case.

Never mind if the Supreme Court said that the constitutional provision on the right to bail applies only when a "person has been arrested and detained for violation of Philippine criminal laws. It does not apply to extradition proceedings, because extradition courts do not render judgments of conviction or acquittal."

The Court pointed out that the Philippines and the United States had an extradition treaty. "In extradition cases, bail is not a matter of right, it is subject to judicial discretion," the Court said. Allowing suspects facing extradition to post bail would make the country "a dubious haven where fugitives and escapees can unreasonably delay (and) defeat the quest for bilateral justice and international cooperation." The Court also prodded the trial court to try the case speedily because extradition is a summary proceeding and unnecessary delays would be an embarrassment, reflecting the Philippines' inability to comply with its treaty obligations "in good faith."

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

The Court's ruling was welcomed by the US government as an important step toward the implementation of the treaty. The US filed the deportation request in June 1999, and Jimenez has since thwarted deportation by endearing himself to former President Estrada, who appointed him adviser on Latin American affairs and later running for Congress in Manila and getting elected for a seat as sixth district representative.

Despite the clear-cut ruling of the high court, Jimenez's friends in Congress tried to blur the issue by invoking the irrelevant argument that congressmen cannot be arrested while serving in the House because they are clothed with parliamentary immunity. Jimenez took a cheap shot when he said that his basic right to post bail has been violated. "If we cannot even defend the Filipino in his own country, how can we defend Filipinos in other countries?"

The Court has clearly explained the basis of the cancellation of bail, and members, even the lawyers among them, cannot impose their interpretation of the law over that of the high court. In this country, the law is what the Supreme Court says is the law. Some congressmen also declared they would physically prevent the arrest of Jimenez and would arrest those who try to arrest him. The justice department is set to implement the Court's order.

Congress cannot stop implementation. It is a lawmaking body and not responsible for executing laws. If its members shield Jimenez from arrest, they would be clearly committing an illegal act. They would be asserting powers that don't belong to them. They can't be lawmaker, judge and sheriff at the same time.

Congressmen are claiming too much by raising the specter of a constitutional crisis if the justice department carries out the arrest order. In a showdown, defiant members resisting lawful orders may also be hauled to jail. The more of them being jailed, the better.

The House suffers from a certain disease called camaraderie. When afflicted, members forget notions of right and wrong, or of legality and illegality. The prime consideration in this camaraderie is that those adhering to it abide by the rule that they close ranks behind a beleaguered member, be they right or wrong.

Jimenez was politically shrewd when he targeted a seat in Congress as the last refuge of scoundrels. Initially, he thought he could gain immunity from extradition by associating closely with Estrada, for whom he engineered business deals that brought monetary benefits to Estrada. Under Estrada, the deportation request dragged like legs chained to iron balls.

When Estrada faced trial on charges of plunder, Jimenez not only abandoned Estrada. He sought to stand as state witness against Estrada. While Estrada was on his way down, Jimenez knew Estrada could no longer protect him, so he sought election to the House, where he reckoned he would be in a position to fend off extradition and would enjoy parliamentary immunity, if not the camaraderie of his congressional colleagues.

Jimenez's political calculations proved correct. But he did not reckon with the Supreme Court and the dynamics of geopolitics made real by such bilateral treaties as extradition. The larger issue is the capacity of Filipinos to make their political and judicial processes live up to their treaty (international) commitments.

When members of Congress closed ranks behind Jimenez, they dramatized the anarchy of democracy, especially the notion of separation of powers, whose primary loyalty goes to the narrow interests of individuals rather than to the national interests.

Meaning in a tragedy

CHANCES are, given the testimony of her neighbors, Rosalinda Piloneo would have suffocated to death her two youngest children even if they were her only children. Chances are, even if she did not have her first child when she was 21, and went on to have six more, Rosalinda could very well have done something so beyond the pale of what we call "normal" that she would end up where it looks like she'll be going soon, an institution for the insane.

But what are the chances that the trials she has gone through, including ending up solely responsible for the survival of five of her children after being abandoned by her husband, did not in some way tip the balance of her mental and emotional state?

There are those who will say that it was poverty that pushed Rosalinda into doing what she did. When her husband left the family's one-room shanty eight months ago, her neighbors said, Rosalinda and the children were left in dire straits, and for the last few days, they hadn't even been eating regularly. While hunger could very well drive someone bonkers, not all poor and starving mothers or couples end up killing their offspring. If at all, hunger has a way of driving people to cling ever more fiercely to life.

It could very well be that the tragedy of Rosalinda and her children is a mere consequence of her mental state. The events of that night could have happened regardless of what had transpired before, or maybe even if she were not driven to desperation. But if the "tale of death in a one-room shanty" is to have more meaning beyond the fact that it has happened before and will likely happen again, maybe we should reflect on what it tells us about Rosalinda's life and her children's death.

* * *

HOW much of a choice, if any, did Rosalinda have in her life? Obviously, even when her husband was around, the family was already having a hard time. You do not raise seven children in a one-room shanty in a slum in Caloocan if you had the means to find a bigger house or a better environment.

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

How many children did she really want to have? And what plans or dreams, if any, did she and her nameless husband nurse for their family?

If she could have had the means or opportunity to plan her life, exercise her choices and believe that she deserved a better future, would Rosalinda have had as large a family?

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon told a forum of visiting an urban poor community one day and meeting two families, of about the same income level, but one of them having just two children, and the other, 10. The mother of 10 children, he said, apologizing for any offense he might make, looked *"losyang,"* a term meaning bedraggled and old beyond her years. Her children, too, were thinner and appeared less cared-for than the children in the other family. The other mother, he noted, was well groomed and even had time to earn some extra income by running a *sari-sari* store.

The public service ads are telling the truth. Smaller families do have better chances at happiness, and do have better chances of providing for their children's needs and fulfilling their dreams.

* * *

IN TRUTH, Rosalinda and her wayward husband had been "killing" their children long before their mother decided to end their suffering by smothering them with a pillow.

Two of her boys, the news report said, were saved from their mother's madness because they were holding "jobs of sorts as errand boys in the neighborhood" and so were out of the house when she finally snapped. Reading the story, I wondered what sort of work would take two teenage boys, 17 and 13, out of their home at three in the morning. And was it proper that children be working at odd hours (were they even going to school?) because their parents could not properly provide for them?

Reproductive rights are a concern not just of women and men of reproductive age. They are also intimately tied up to the future of children, for when couples are prevented from exercising their reproductive rights, more often than not, the results are children born to parents who have no means to raise them properly and who could only usher them into a life of hardship and desperation.

* * *

I MUST admit that when I first saw the TV news footage of the children's death, and of Rosalinda's tearful remorse in a Caloocan jail, I scoffed at her grief and said "now she's crying, when it's too late to save her children!"

Our capacity for human understanding is indeed strained by seemingly needless and meaningless tragedies like this. But as I write this, I realize that there IS meaning in this particular tragedy, and it is that when women like Rosalinda are deprived—by personal circumstance or social conditions—of their capacity for choosing the better course, the victims are not just the women, but their children, too. As proved by this heart-rending story, children and mothers are tied together by fate even long after the umbilical cord is cut.

In Japan, there was some years ago a seeming "epidemic" of depressed mothers jumping to their deaths while holding on to their young children. Maybe the mothers thought that without them, their children's lives would end up miserable and not worth living. Or maybe it was in atonement for bringing them into the world then failing to provide them enough reason to remain living. If one daughter had not managed to fight her off and ran off to alert the neighbors, it's very possible Rosalinda could have planned to join her children in the after-life. From her warped point of view, it could not have been any worse than the life they had been enduring.

Two weeks in Nara

BY THE TIME this sees print, I will be two weeks in Japan on a visit sponsored by the Asia-Pacific Cultural Center for Unesco (Accu). Everything went well except for my missing out on two columns last week. It was wrong to presume that being a wonderland of technological gadgets Japan would be bursting with Internet cafés where I could compose a column while nursing a cappuccino. I never had problems with e-mail transmission of columns even in the smallest places in the Philippines. Just recently, on the road to Bicol, I got a text from the INQUIRER saying they didn't receive my column so I stopped in Gumaca, Quezon and with some difficulty found Internet access for less than P40. Surely, Japan could outdo Gumaca. I guess there would be no problem if I were in Tokyo, Kyoto or Osaka, but then most of my time was spent in Nara, which is Japan's oldest capital (710-784 A.D.), a place of great beauty, full of historical and cultural significance but with no visible public Internet access. There is an Internet bar with a hefty cover-charge on top of US$10 for 15 minutes on-line. I resigned myself to a two-week forced vacation from column writing till Accu sent three laptops—two with a Japanese keyboard—the one with English had no floppy drive. At least this column could be printed and faxed home.

From the 28 Unesco member states in the Asia-Pacific region, Accu invited 11 participants from different countries to Japan for a training program for young (that means 45 years old and below) leaders in cultural heritage protection. The program had lectures and a lot of visits to museums, landmark structures, archeological sites and conservation laboratories. Most important, I think, was the opportunity to exchange opinions not only with our hospitable Japanese hosts, but with the other participants from all over the r

Aside from heritage protection, mutual understanding was at the core of the program and I think we learned this best during meals. Being a mixed group, eating was a daily challenge. All of us had to grapple with the language barrier and a wide array of unfamiliar Japanese food. While I could eat anything I would try to help out knowing that participants from Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan could not eat pork, the one from Nepal could not eat beef, the one from Papua New Guinea could not eat octopus and the one from India was a strict vegetarian. We were different in many ways except for a shared interest in promoting and conserving culture from our own countries.

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

On a personal note, this trip was significant because when I got off Kansai International Airport (which I had only seen on stopovers to the United States) I realized it is the gateway to Osaka which I visited as a 9-year-old during Expo '70. Aside from getting lost in the expo and finding my way to a restaurant and my parents, there is little I remember from that trip. I saw live bears for the first time in Hokkaido and saw my father humiliated after a game of strip "jak en poy" with a Geisha. Before the game, he gathered the wristwatches of all the Pinoys and wore them way past his elbows. As a boy in wartime Pampanga he saw Japanese soldiers doing the same thing. He presumed the Geisha would be in her birthday suit in no time. He played very well, but the Geisha started disrobing with her delicate hair pins. He was stripped bare ev. . efore the Geisha had a strand of hair undone. My mother literally threw in a face towel from the table to keep the remnants of my father's dignity. Frankly, I have no recollection of bedtime discussion that evening.

On this trip I planned to use our free day revisiting Osaka after 32 years. Shopping was too expensive an option so I surveyed the choices of museums and found it exquisite and varied as a sushi bar. Aside from art, history, temples, gardens, etc. there was the Yamazaki Whisky Library where one could learn all about Japanese whisky and sample hundreds of Japanese and foreign brands. There is also a museum on beer, another on wine. For those who want something more substantial than a liquid diet, there is a museum on rice and another on instant noodles. The Monofuku Ando Instant Ramen Museum traces the origin of instant noodles to Osaka in 1958. I will never look at a bowl of Lucky Me Instant Mami noodles the same way again. There are museums for exotic plants, flowers and even one dedicated to insects. Another museum is focused on gas and how it affects our life and lifestyle, and another on pharmaceuticals.

A Nostalgia Museum is home to memorable toys, including the world's largest Billikensan doll, two meters high that bring luck to those who scratch the soles of his feet. This overgrown baby with slit eyes and sharp ears happened to be the mascot of the pre-war Manila Carnivals. Who invented Billiken first, the Japanese or Arsenio Luz, director of the Manila Carnival?

With so much to do in limited time, I ended up with a list of places to visit on a future trip. Although I was unable to visit many of the above museums, my general impression of Japan has changed. It is not just a land of electronic gadgets and sashimi but a place full of museums to suit ev. y taste and budget.

* * *

.nents are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Clarifying Fr. Bernas' 'dispute' with the SC

I THINK that the esteemed Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J. would have little anticipated that his remarks at an interview would make the headlines of the INQUIRER (Friday, Sept. 27, 2002), especially as it trumpets that he "disputes" the Supreme Court decision. It is evident, of course, that the academic intent of Father Bernas, notwithstanding his position vis-à-vis that of the high court on a highly disputed and emotionally charted subject, will electrify the air even more and raise the decibels of rhetoric in the House!

COMMENTARY

Fr. Ranhilio Callangan Aquino

Unless it is rendered *pro hac vice*, every Supreme Court judgment is two things at once: it definitely disposes of a controversy and it lays down doctrine. That the two are inseparable is conceded, but that a distinction nonetheless need be made is a philosophical necessity.

The judgement in Government of the United States of America v. Purganan, GR 148571 (Sept. 24, 2002) which is the official caption of the Jimenez, a.k.a. Crespo extradition case disposes of the controversy over the detention of Mark Jimenez pending extradition proceedings, unless of course reversed or modified on a Motion for Reconsideration. For this, the Supreme Court makes no claim at infallibility, and so it was a shameful *non sequitur* for one member of the House to make light of the Court's position by reminding the world of the its fallibility. Hart's classic on legal positivism, "A Concept of Law," explains that the completeness of a juridical system requires the assignation to one body—under our Constitution, the Supreme Court—of the power to say exactly what the law is that resolves a controversy. Social life is such that while philosophical debates continue, certain matters must be disposed of with finality. In this sense, the Constitution bids all comply with the Court's order in the Jimenez case, not because it is infallible nor perhaps even because it articulates the best piece of jurisprudence, but because it is "supreme"! In the same vein, no matter the silliness and pettiness that sometimes finds its way into legislation, Congress' word of the written text of the law will be final, not because Congress is infallible but because it is Congress! That is basic political law.

Father Bernas' expressed views are those of a legal scholar. At one time he was offered a seat in the high court. He declined nomination and opted to contribute to society as a legal and a political philosopher. It was in that most important social role that I believe he made his remarks. He knew he could not "dispute" the Supreme Court's final disposition of a case—something some members of Congress must still learn. He was expressing his reservations about the doctrine enunciated in the celebrated case. He may have found the dissenting opinions of Justices Bellosillo and Puno—no doubt jurists of high caliber—very persuasive. That is not to say that the high court, speaking through Justice Panganiban, was unreasonable. The majority opinion in fact did not lay down the general rule that all extraditees would from henceforth be denied bail. It rather held that an extraditee could not invoke the right to bail guaranteed by the Constitution, extradition proceedings being distinct from criminal actions. That it is not yet to say that bail may never be granted. In fact, the majority opinion points out that one of the safeguards against arbitrariness in pre-hearing detention is "his (the extraditee's) opportunity, once he is under the court's custody, to apply for bail as an exception to the no-initial-bail rule." It is difficult to see how such a scholarly posture as Father Bernas' can be taken as "disputing" the high court's decision.

There is something peculiar about the "science of the law." "Jurisprudence" is a species of prudence—and all prudence is a reasonable response to the exigencies of particulars. Traditional treaties on the virtue of "prudence" make it clear that is both *consideratio rationis* (therefore, reasonable) and *applicatio ad opus* (and hence, practical). It has kinship with *phronesis*, from which post-modern philosophers draw inspiration for a poetics, rather than a science of imperatives. As such, it is distant from science. On the other hand, conclusions in law commence from premises enjoying some measure of common acceptability and appropriate abstractness to allow application to particulars. Laws of inference govern. It is in this Aristotelian sense that it is also science. This is the difficult human discipline jurists and juridical scholars revel in. This is where Father Bernas has his home!

At any rate, the debate of scholars Father Bernas joins in—and in many ways begins—is markedly different from the hooliganism and gangsterism that the threat of impeaching justices is at rock-bottom. Insofar as resolving a dispute is concerned, the Supreme Court's word is final—until we rewrite our Constitution and decide otherwise, and foreswear our supposed adherence to the Rule of Law. Insofar as the jurisprudence it articulates may be the subject of debate and discourse, let the agora remain open—and let men and women equipped with superior intellectual capabilities as well as the depth of jurisprudence contribute to the agora's liveliness. But that venerable marketplace of ideas is certainly no place for kids with their slingshots, especially if these take the form of threats of impeachment or dire reprisals against the justices!

And now, for one bow at Richard Rorty. Is the Supreme Court right or wrong? Who can tell? Who will tell? Rorty has some very good advice. He urges us to abandon the question as futile, in fact as dangerous. It is exactly because some believe the Supreme Court is wrong that there are rumors of a "constitutional crisis," intimations of a "showdown," in short—threats of disobedience and disregard. Instead of the vain search for some transcendental standard by which to judge the Supreme Court's decision, it will be well for us to examine what our options are insofar as we choose to live in an orderly society, profess to be orderly, reasonable and subject to law. If this is so, then the process of social adjustment demands that at some point, disputes be finally disposed of, by arriving at some reasonable conclusion. Given the proclivity of lawyers and jurists to talk and to write, this debate will go on for some time in the future, but a dispute has been resolved, and resolved with reasons that do not ascribe any infallibility to themselves but that commend themselves to the consideration of reasonable men and women!

Fr. Ranhilio Callangan Aquino is head of the Academic Affairs Office and chair of the Department of Jurisprudence and Legal Philosoph .. Phili .. .udicial Academy.

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It's all a matter of style

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

WHAT appeared in the article, "Charge Fernando with slay" (Metro, 9/27/02) as reported by Philip C. Tubeza with reference to me and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, is unfair as it is inaccurate and not true.

In his story, Tubeza wrote that "Metro Manila mayors have supported Fernando's drive, except for Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, who criticized Fernando after he demolished sidewalk railings in the city."

In the interest of fair and accurate reporting, please allow me to set the facts straight since from the way it looks, this issue on sidewalk vendors has been, and will remain, a dominant issue for some time.

I have stated categorically in media interviews that I am in full support of the objectives of Fernando in clearing the sidewalks and streets of vendors and obstructions and giving them back to the pedestrians and to the people.

We have done our fair share of clearing our city's sidewalks long before this issue took center stage because as city mayor and as a lawyer, I know this is the law and it has to be enforced. The sidewalks in our commercial areas and all over the city have been cleared and are pedestrian-friendly.

If I have been identified with those opposing Fernando, maybe it is because we differ in the manner and style by which we implement the law.

I happen to hold the view that we can uphold the law vis-à-vis our less privileged vendors with reason and compassion and attain better results.

While we keep the vendors out of the sidewalks, I feel that they deserve a break. Many of these people belong to the poorest of the poor. They could not find employment in offices and factories. But they have a right to earn a living to support their families and send their children to school.

We provided livelihood loans of P5,000 each to vendors who were displaced or relocated and were in turn adopted by the markets. The loans enabled them to beef up their capital and pay for stalls in the markets. The city government has also built a roof over some of these stalls and provided them with adequate lighting.

These vendors are my constituents. We helped them with the loans so they can earn their living lawfully without fear of harassment. The challenge is now up to them to succeed in their new environment as legitimate entrepreneurs.

On my reported tiff with Fernando after MMDA personnel removed the pedestrian railings at the Edsa-Shaw Boulevard intersection, Fernando and I had a dialogue that same day which dispelled whatever misunderstanding or conflict, if any.

—BENHUR C. ABALOS,
mayor, Mandaluyong City

Repeal the extradition treaty?

I CANNOT understand why the House of Representatives is wasting so much time on Rep. Mark Jimenez (a.k.a. Mario Crespo). Some congressmen even suggest going to the extent of blocking his arrest as ordered by the Court. They are practically challenging the Supreme Court in the exercise of its power and transgressing the line separating the two independent branches of government.

The few in the House should be reminded that the extradition treaty under which

Jimenez is about to be held in the Court's custody has been ratified by the Senate.

If our congressmen do not wish the treaty to be enforced, they should work for its repeal or amendment, perhaps using the *res sic stantibus* clause inherent in such kind of treaties.

In the meantime, our honorable lawmakers should keep their mouths shut and let the courts do their duties under the treaty.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ
420 Gov. A. Pascual St.,
San Jose, Navotas,
Metro Manila

Review methods for choosing GOCC boards

THE ALLEGED overpricing in the construction of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard has again highlighted a basic defect in the appointment of the chairpersons and members of governing boards of government-owned or controlled corporations.

The practice of naming political supporters to government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) boards began when the appointees were reliably honest. The appointment was a reward for political leaders who spent their own money to support their party's candidates.

Devotion to their party was such that election after election, win or lose, they ran for office under their party's banner or supported its candidates with everything they had that many became impoverished in the process.

Could any one of the PEA board members qualify for the standards of those party devotees in the old days?

The truth is, the people lucky enough to be appointed in GOCC boards have only one thing in common. That is, look for business opportunities to make as much money as possible within the shortest time for fear they might not stay in their positions for long.

Most of them, without exception, may not even understand what the GOCC they govern is all about. With most of them lawyers relying solely on educational attainment without business experience, they look at corporate decisions from a legal standpoint like throwing sand in the gearbox of a machine.

With this sad experience, which has blasphemed the good memory of her father, President Macapagal-Arroyo hopefully would revamp the system of appointing GOCC board members. Thus, this restructuring of GOCC governance could be one of her lasting legacies.

We believe it would be far better if the majority or all of the board members were GOCC career officials. Board membership would be an added incentive to deserving officials like becoming Supreme Court justices after serving as lower court judges.

It has a self-policing effect. A career official appointed as a board member, if implicated and proven guilty for an irregularity, would lose his retirement benefits and all he has worked for in the service of the GOCC. Add the stigma on his family in such a case and a GOCC would have a sword of Damocles hanging over each board member's head.

After all, who else would know what a GOCC is all about better than its officials who may have risen from the ranks? Perhaps, the chair may be a political appointee but he would be outvoted on every issue that he would probably regret accepting the position in the first place.

—FRANK WENCESLAO,
92 Mindanao Avenue,
Quezon City

Shorter working hours not wage increase

YOUR news story on Page A-6 of Sept. 28 reported Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin's plan to offer government workers "shorter work period" instead of a wage increase.

The All UP Academic Employees Union, composed of faculty and REPS of the University of the Philippines, assails Boncodin's response to the demand of government employees for a P3,000 across-the-board salary increase as ridiculous and unacceptable.

Given the series of increases in the price of gasoline, the high cost of electricity and other utilities and the general increase in the price of basic commodities, we cannot understand how shorter working hours can reduce the gap between our income and expenses.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration is applying a double standard when it granted military personnel and members of the Philippine National Police with salary increases this year while the rest of the government employees did not receive any salary hike.

Our examination of the proposed 2003 budget of the Macapagal administration reveals that while there is a P34 billion increase in the overall budget (from P770 billion in 2002 to P804 billion in 2003), a hefty portion of that increase, P31 billion, is allocated to debt servicing! Hence, while the Macapagal administration has a huge budget deficit, it prioritizes debt payments and military expenses over the welfare of government employees and the Filipino people.

No, we are not asking for shorter working hours! We reiterate our demand for a P3,000 across-the-board salary increase for all government employees.

—JUDY M. TAGUIWALO,
national president,
All UP Academic Employees
Union, c/o College of Social Work
and Community Development,
UP Diliman, Quezon City

Legislative blackmail worthy of thugs

THE ISSUE of Rep. Mark Jimenez's extradition has exposed once more the embarrassing lack of profundity of many of our congressmen's understanding of the law. The bone of contention this time is the Supreme Court's cancellation of Jimenez's bail for his temporary liberty while his extradition to the United States for bailable offenses committed there is being heard. The hearing in the RTC is to determine whether his extradition is justified, under the terms of our treaty with the United States and not whether he is guilty of the crimes he is charged with in the United States.

Our congressmen cannot seem to comprehend the spirit of an extradition treaty where one country agrees to repatriate fugitives from justice in another country regardless of nationality of the fugitive, be he a citizen of the country where he has sought sanctuary or not, or whether he is a citizen of the country seeking jurisdiction over him or not. The idea is to ensure that a fugitive must answer for his crimes in the country where he committed these. The gravity of the crime is not an issue either, be it jaywalking, embezzlement or murder. The Jimenez case may be analogous to the Rod Strunk case, a US citizen holed up in his country refusing to appear in a Philippine court to answer for alleged crimes committed here.

The right to bail guaranteed in the Constitution is being invoked. Again, our congressmen need a lesson in semantics. They cannot seem to distinguish between a suspect and a fugitive. A suspect may or may not be guilty of a crime attributed to him and he is entitled to temporary liberty while his case is being heard in court. A fugitive is one accused of a crime (he may or may not be guilty) who refuses to submit to the jurisdiction of the court and flees. Fugitives, when apprehended, may not be accorded rights to bail, having demonstrated their intent to escape appearance in court. Jimenez falls in this category. He can return to the United States and avail himself of all the rights US laws accord including the right to bail, as he defends himself in court.

It would be the height of irresponsibility for the members of the House to guarantee their colleague's good behavior, putting in line the integrity of the institution for a fugitive who won at great expense a seat among them, and presumably has sown considerable goodwill, but remains a fugitive. Worse still is the threat to impeach the justices who have ruled adversely on the Jimenez case. We have here a clear case of legislative blackmail worthy only of thugs.

There may be a good reason for one state to deny the request for extradition by another as in the case of Arturo Pacificador, allegedly involved in the murder of Evelio Javier. The Canadian government would not turn over Pacificador to the Philippines because it lends credence to Pacificador's claim that he will not get justice under the circumstances. If we are of the conviction that Jimenez will not get a fair trial in the United States, by all means let us not turn him over, even if we have to range our F5's against the cruise missiles of the Seventh Fleet. Our congressmen will have to forego their "pork barrel" for the purchase of spare parts for the earthbound jets and intone: "Greater love hath no man than when he gives up his pork for a beleaguered colleague!"

—E.P. DAKANAY JR.,
43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Vicious propaganda

THE AGUSTIN Begnalen Command (ABC) of the CPP/NPA operating in Tineg, Abra is spreading ugly rumors against our municipal mayor, Clarence Benwaren. The ABC has been concocting unjust accusations against Mayor Benwaren's person to discredit his reputation.

Having been a high school teacher in Tineg, before landing a teaching job here in Manila, I was able to witness how Benwaren exerted his best to uplift the economic conditions of his people. His leadership is admired and respected by the people. Benwaren's family has devoted their time, effort and resources for the people. That is why I was seething in anger when my nephew sent me a copy of the letter being circulated by the ABC detailing the crimes of the Benwarens of which the communists said the family must pay.

Although I am now teaching here in Manila, I usually go home to Abra two to three times a month to visit my old folks. That's why I can say I am abreast with what is happening in Tineg.

The claim of the ABC that Benwaren is directly responsible for the deaths of Lakay Angko Gawiran, Dominador Cruz, Windy Segbo, Inmias and Lazaro (whom I know to be one and the same person) and Dennis Garcia is baseless and is a product of a ruthless propaganda machinery of the communist movement.

I have a feeling the spread of those ugly rumors is retaliatory because the CPP/NPA has been deprived mass base support from the people of Tineg.

I believe that Benwaren will be vindicated in the end by the people's unstinted support in his administration.

—MA. LORRINDA V. CRISOSTOMO
St. Raphael High School,
Caloocan City

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DATE	ACTIVITY	SPONSOR	VENUE
October 2, Wed 10:00am to 12:00nn	Motorshow Joyride (A Media Preview)		WTC
12:00nn	Open to the Trade & General Public		WTC
4:00pm	Formal Opening & Ribbon Cutting		WTC
October 2-6 10:00am to 8:00pm	HONDA CLINIC Test Ride Motorcycle Check-Up Bike Stunt	Honda Phils.	Boom Parking
	VOLVO TEST RIDE	Volvo Phils.	Boom Parking
	EXHIBITOR'S PROMOS Raffle Draw/Discount/Games		WTC
October 3, Thu 10:00am	Judging: Motorshow In Scale (Scale Models)		WTC
2:00pm to 3:30pm	SEMINAR: "Basics of Tires"	Madag Int'l	Seminar Rm.
4:00pm to 5:00pm	SEMINAR: "ASNU Injector Diagnostics"	Energy & Aviation Support Corp.	Seminar Rm.
5:00pm	Best In Show Judging (Day 1) Meeting of Judges - Auto Competition		WTC
October 4, Fri 10:00am to 8:00pm	Best In Show Judging (Continuation) Motorshow In Scale Judging Corporate Display Judging		WTC WTC WTC
10:30am to 12:00nn	SEMINAR: "Tire Defect Adjustment"	Madag Int'l	Seminar Rm.
October 4, Fri (continuation) 2:00pm to 3:30pm	SEMINAR: "Tire Care Maintenance"	Madag Int'l	Seminar Rm.
4:00pm to 5:00pm	SEMINAR: "The Ultimate Anti-Carnapping Device: A Seminar on Car Alarm"	Nodalo's Trading	Seminar Rm.
October 5, Sat 10:00am to 8:00pm	MOTOLITE DAY	Oriental & Motolite	WTC
10:00am to 5:00pm	RC RACES		WTC
1:00pm to 2:00pm	SEMINAR: "Prolonging Engine Life Through the Use of Metal Coordinator"	Pheeramas Phils.	WTC
2:00pm to 3:00pm	Launching & Presentation of "A New Muffler"	Nodalo's Trading	Seminar Rm.
4:00pm to 5:00pm	Launching & Presentation of "Load Plus" for Spring Kit Vehicles	William Parts	WTC Stage
October 6, Sun 10:00am to 8:00pm	MOTORSHOW CAR CLUBS MEET Volkswagen Car Club of the Phils. Vintage Car Club Mercedes Benz Car Club Mini Car Club Everyday Holiday Muscle Car Club Mitsubishi BMW British Roadster		WTC Driveway
5:00pm to 8:00pm	13th Motorshow Awarding & Closing Ceremonies		WTC Stage

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Phil Alden Robinson, Mikael Salomon, Tony To, Directors

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A Private Life

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IN MEMORIAM: NEW YORK CITY, 9/11/01

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US, UK ready tough resolution on Iraq

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The proposals include giving Iraq seven days to accept the resolution and another 23 days to make full disclosure of its weapons of mass destruction or face military action, the diplomat said.

If adopted, the resolution would also impose conditions enabling the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission to carry out more intrusive inspections than its predecessor, UNSCOM, which was withdrawn in December 1998.

Inspectors would be able to question Iraqi scientists in private and special procedures for entering eight presidential sites—covering a total 31.5 square km—would be scrapped, the diplomat said.

The five permanent members of the Security Council would have the right to send representatives to accompany the inspectors, and to determine that certain sites be searched.

The diplomat forecast tough negotiations over "the trigger paragraph" which Britain and the United States want to spell out the consequences for Iraq if it failed to comply.

Two of the three other permanent members—France and Russia—have rejected the idea of an automatic step from Iraqi noncompliance to military action. The third, China, has warned that military action without UN approval would have "incalculable consequences."

"We don't want to give anyone free rein to launch military action," French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said in an article published Monday in the Paris daily Le Monde.

"This is why we cannot accept a resolution that authorizes the immediate use of force, without such a proposal being brought back before the UN Security Council."

The council diplomat said, however, that the US-British proposals were "not non-negotiable" and added: "This resolution is not about triggering military action; it is about getting (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein to allow serious inspections." *AFP*

UN arms monitors snub US call

VIENNA—United Nations arms inspectors will follow Security Council instructions, a UN spokesperson said Tuesday, snubbing a US call for inspections in Iraq to be put off until any new resolution is voted.

"We are moving forward with our discussions under our mandate and will of course take into account any directions from the (UN) Security Council," spokesperson Melissa Fleming said at talks in Vienna between UN experts and Iraqi officials.

"We are the technical inspectorate of the Security Council and will take our directives from the Security Council," she said.

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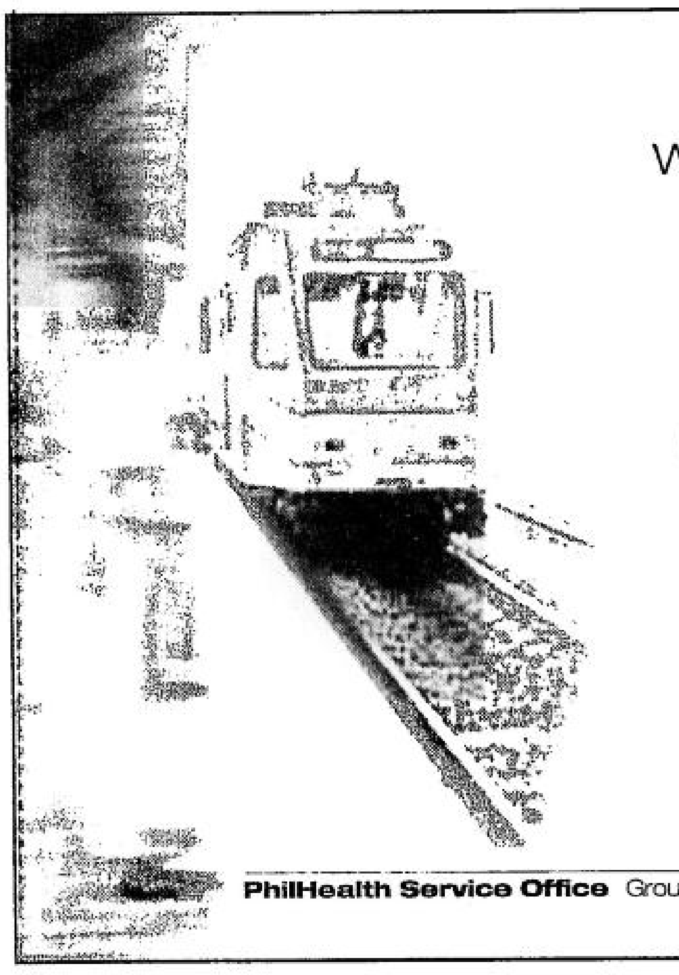
The Iraqis were "trying their best. . . to expedite our requirements for effective inspections", Blix said Monday.

UN officials made clear the talks were based on previous UN resolutions on Iraq inspections, which the administration of US President George W. Bush does not accept, not the new US-British draft. *AFP*



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Indian naval planes collide during air show

BOMBAY—Two Indian Navy transport planes flying in an air show collided in mid-air Tuesday in the western state of Goa, killing 15 people and injuring another 15, officials said.

The two planes, each carrying six crew members, took off from the resort state's main airport in Panaji and hit each other in mid-air at around 10 a.m. in the nearby area of Zuarinagar, police said.

"Fifteen people have been killed, including the 12 crew members and three civilians on the ground," Pradeep Srivastava, a senior police official at the scene, told AFP by telephone.

"The rescue operation is now over," he said. "There were people trapped in a house that was under construction but we believe that most of them have been rescued." Srivastava said many of the bodies were badly mangled after the planes collided. One of the planes crashed on a road and the other on the building where the construction crew was working.

He said another 15 people on the ground were injured and taken to the hospital for treatment.

The Indian navy's western command has set up a board of inquiry into the collision. *AFP*

AP

INTERNATIONAL BEAUTIES
Winner Christina Sawaya of Lebanon, center, poses with her first runner-up Emmanuelle Jagodsinski of France, left, and second runner-up Hana Urushima of Japan after the announcement of winners for the Miss International beauty pageant in Tokyo Sept. 30.

4 die in Mideast; Israel maintains siege on Arafat

NABLUS, West Bank—After three Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed in renewed violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Israeli army quietly redeployed around Yasser Arafat's office, keeping the Palestinian leader in close check, officials said Tuesday.

The deaths came as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was trying to regain some steam in Moscow, before returning to Israel to face the fallout from his humiliating Ramallah siege fiasco and Labour party threats to withdraw from his coalition government.

Late Monday, the Israeli army cracked down on Palestinians in the West Bank city of Nablus defying the curfew, sparking fierce clashes which left two Palestinian children and an Israeli soldier dead.

Ten Palestinians were injured, an 11-year-old critically, in the firefights which took place mainly in Nablus' Old City, army and Palestinian medical sources said.

The army continued its sweep for wanted militants in the West Bank all night, arresting more than 30.

Meanwhile in the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian man working as a watchman on a farm was hit by Israeli bullets as two tanks and a bulldozer rolled into the Al-Shujayiah district on the eastern edge of Gaza City, Palestinian medics said.

The tanks opened fire with machine-guns as an Apache helicopter flew overhead and fired at least two missiles on an unidentified target, security sources said.

The deaths brought to 2,543 the number of people killed since the intifada erupted two years ago, including 1,877 Palestinians and 615 Israelis, the difference being made up of foreigners.

Meanwhile in Ramallah, the situation remained volatile as Israeli guns were again pointed at Arafat's office, two days after the army withdrew its forces from the veteran leader's compound.

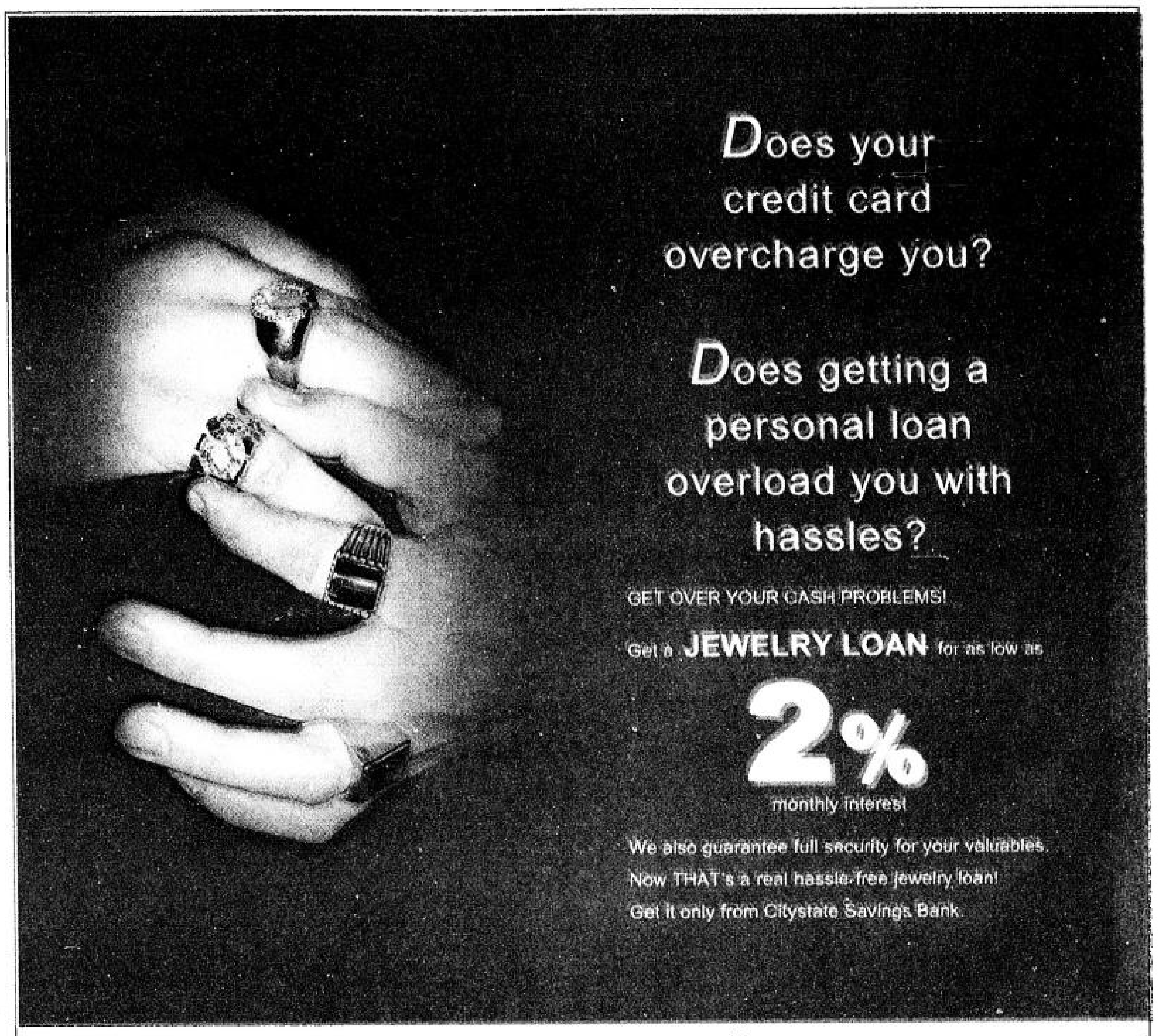
Speaking from inside the crumbling building which was besieged for 10 days, Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rudeina said Israeli troops occupied two Palestinian houses in front of the Muqataa compound and pointed their guns out of the windows towards Arafat's offices.

Israel was struggling to save face two days after US pressure forced the army to pull out from the battered compound, letting the 73-year-old Palestinian leader emerge triumphant from yet another siege.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer admitted Tuesday that tanks had only withdrawn to please the United States and remove an obstacle in Washington's preparations for a war against Iraq.

"We left the Muqataa because the United States, our most important ally thought our continued presence (there) was becoming the main obstacle to its goal (of disarming Iraq) which is also in our interest," he told public radio.

The Israeli press described the siege and its abrupt end as a farce, as Israel took its usual hard line and then buckled without achieving its stated goals, which some commentators saw as a dangerous sign of weakness in the hostile region. *AFP*



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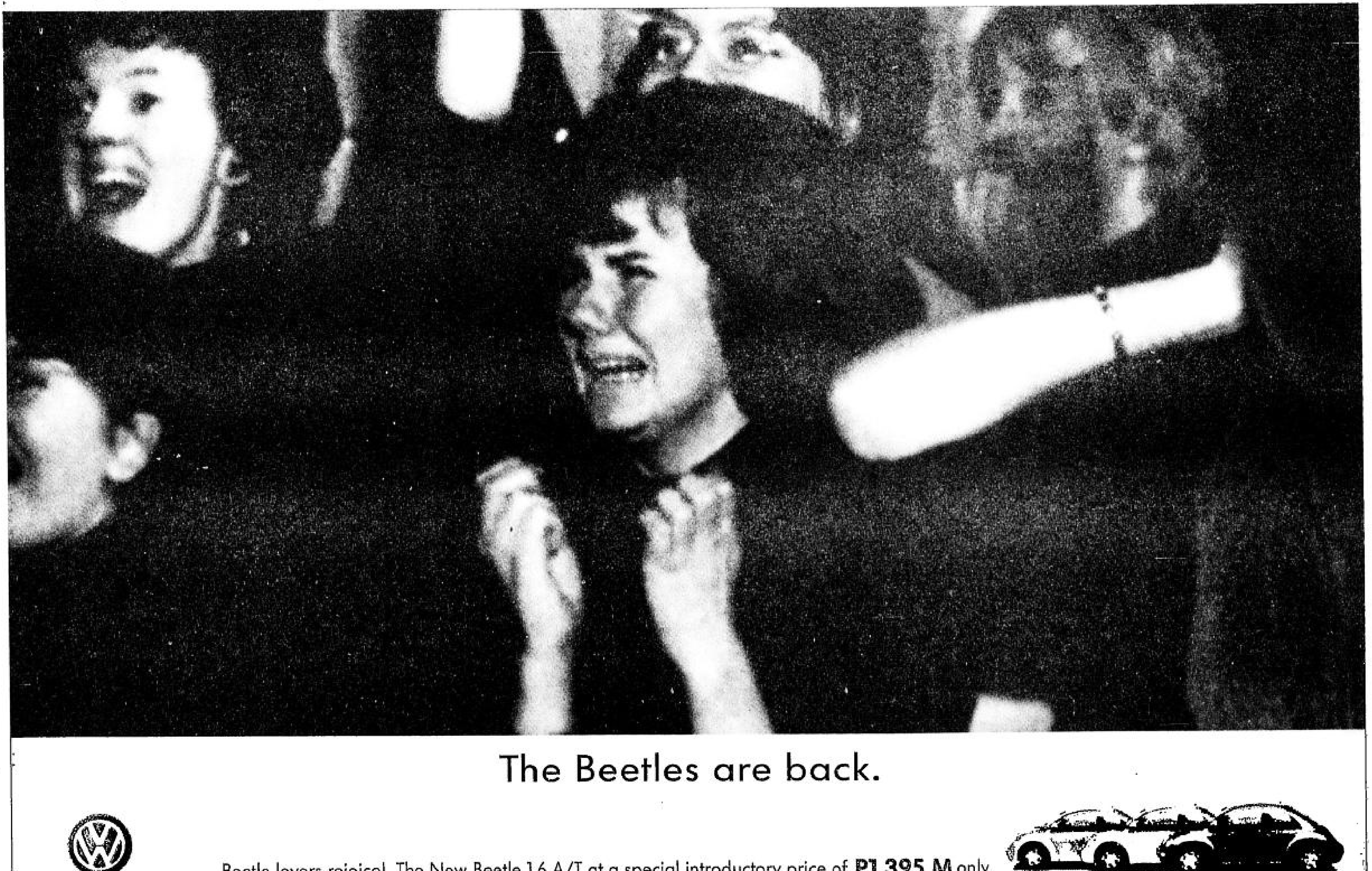

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Divers find no more survivors in terrible African sea disaster

DAKAR—Divers called off the search on Monday for victims of one of Africa's worst sea disasters as anger swelled over news the Senegalese ferry capsized with nearly twice the 550 people it was meant to carry.

Rescuers recovered only 64 survivors from among the 1,034 people on board the Joola, which Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade said was not built to go to sea.

The ferry, which Wade said was only designed for use on lakes, capsized last Thursday when it was caught by fierce gusts of wind and rain off the coast of Gambia.

Rescuers have put the hope of finding more survivors at nil.

The search for bodies trapped in the hull 23 meters beneath the Atlantic Ocean was called off on Monday.

"The bodies are in an advanced state of decomposition. You pull a hand and it is the arm that comes away and not the body," said Haibar Ali, president of the Senegalese diving club working with French and Gambian divers to retrieve the corpses.

"When we got there, there were no more survivors. The first boats heard people crying and tapping on the hull."

Nearly 400 bodies were recovered from the state-operated ferry off the fishing village of Sanyang in Gambia, a sliver of a country that almost cuts Senegal in two. The Joola had sailed for Dakar from the southern Senegalese city of Ziguinchor.

Gambian state television said late on Monday a further 17 corpses had been recovered in a fishing village called Tanji, 27 km from the former British colony's capital Banjul.

Anger mounted among relatives of the dead and a group of academics demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Mame Madior Boye's government. Her office said on Sunday there were 238 more passengers on board the Joola than previously thought.

"There are recognised facts which prove that there was human negligence," the group said in a letter.

"The government is totally responsible for this," said Ibrahim Sangna, who lost two brothers and an aunt on board.

Amateur television footage showed the Joola listing heavily to starboard before it left Ziguinchor, in the southern Casamance region. Canoes continued to bring more unofficial passengers to scramble aboard.

The cheapest tickets for the 12-hour journey cost 3,500 CFA francs ($5.25).

Wade told protesters at his palace at the weekend that a full investigation would be made into the disaster and compensation paid to those who had lost relatives.

"Many passengers shouted and cried before being swallowed up by the sea," said Cheikh Seck, 29, who survived by holding on to lifebelts with a group of others and tying themselves together.

Fishing trawlers kept up a grim shuttle between Gambia and Dakar, carrying bodies of victims to a navy base where hundreds of desperate relatives waited in the faint hope that their loved ones might be among survivors.

"I had two children on the boat, I have to know where they are," said Aisha Mende, sifting through pictures of the dead.

A Senegalese crisis unit said foreign passengers included 10 French nationals, five Spaniards, two Dutch, two Belgians and two Swiss, along with 20 people from Guinea Bissau. One Frenchman was among the rescued. *Reuters*

BIG, VERY BIG
AP
Visitors admire the winner pumpkin of an annual national squash contest in Shodoshima Island in Kagawa Prefecture, southwestern Japan, Sept. 29. The squash, grown by Takao Hoshijima, 67, of nearby Kurashiki City in Okayama Prefecture, weighs 331.6 kilograms (730 pounds).

Risking Arab, Muslim anger, Bush signs Jerusalem law

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush, at the risk of angering the Arab and Muslim worlds, signed legislation on Monday that requires his administration to identify Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Faced with a choice between endorsing the controversial bill passed by Congress and shutting down US diplomatic activity, Bush put his signature on the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for 2003, which gives the administration more than $4 billion for running the State Department.

In a written statement, Bush said US policy regarding Jerusalem "has not changed."

If Congress meant the language on Jerusalem to be mandatory, then lawmakers were encroaching on the president's right to conduct foreign policy, he said.

"The purported direction. . . would, if construed as mandatory rather than advisory, impermissibly interfere with the president's constitutional authority to formulate the position of the United States, speak for the nation in international affairs and determine the terms on which recognition is given to foreign states," Bush said.

The bill goes further on Jerusalem than previously demanded by Congress, which for years has pressed successive presidents on moving the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. *Reuters*

Lost WWII fliers on way home to US

BEIJING—Lost to their country and their families, they lay on a lonely Himalayan mountainside for six decades—enough time for their war to end and others to begin, for children to grow and have their own children, for the enemy they were fighting to become a friend again.

But this week, remains believed to be those of four American airmen killed during World War II when their cargo plane crashed onto a lofty meadow in eastern Tibet are finally on their way home—thanks to the cooperation of two governments that spent many of the intervening years as suspicious rivals.

No one is certain yet who they are, though the US military has the crew manifest of the C-46 transport that went down in March 1944 along the "hump route," named for the spectacular lumps of snow-shrouded majesty that pilots see when crossing high above the Himalayas.

The remains were retrieved from 2,000 km southwest of Beijing, during a nearly two-month operation conducted with Chinese government searchers during the summer. Another C-46 crash site several mountains away was investigated and its contents tagged for future retrieval.

"It's like winning the jackpot, getting up there and finding these," US Army Capt. Daniel N. Rouse, leader of the search team from the Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii, said at a news conference Monday at the US Embassy in Beijing.

The C-46, pressurized for high-altitude wartime runs, crashed during a return trip along the hump route, a supply run from India to the Chinese wartime capital of Kunming and back that ferried goods to China-based US forces and Chinese Nationalist government forces battling the Japanese.

Five years later, the communists drove the Nationalists from the mainland and established a government the United States regarded as a threat, precluding for decades any chance of cooperative searches.

The airplane slammed into the mountain high above the Tibetan village of Langko and wound up in a pasture—an unusual sight amid the rocky terrain typical at 4,770 meters.

The wings, sheared off on impact, were found nearby; the fuselage, damaged but recognizable, still shone in the sun. Its landing gear was still up when found and thick clouds were visible across that level of the mountain. *AP*

SMOKING AMAZON
AP
Smoke billows as flames burn in the Amazon rainforest, next to the Xingu river near the city of Sao Felix do Xingu, in the northern state of Para, Brazil, in this Aug. 14, 2002 file photo. Farmers burn the vegetation to make pasture for their herds.

NZ scientists to put human genes in cattle

WELLINGTON—New Zealand gave the go ahead on Tuesday to begin experiments that involve inserting human genes into cattle to produce proteins that could be used to treat medical conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

A committee of the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA), which controls the introduction of new plants, animals and genetically modified organisms into New Zealand, approved the plan despite receiving only seven of 850 submissions supporting the proposal.

The authority placed restrictions on the experiment—the first in New Zealand to involve genetic modification outside a laboratory—including electronic animal tagging and a complete ban on any cow leaving the secured site.

Under the approved plan, a state research institute, AgResearch Ltd, plans to insert genes from goats, pigs, sheep, mice and humans into the cattle, with the resulting genetically modified embryos transferred into normal cows to create 'transgenic calves.'

"You do the research because you don't know the answers.

Although some of the uncertainties of the research may be related to the risks, likewise some of those uncertainties may be related to the benefits," ERMA Chief Executive Basil Walker said.

If successful, the research could advance work to prevent or minimize multiple sclerosis, a chronic, potentially debilitating disease that affects the central nervous system, AgResearch scientists said. *Reuters*

CHINA NATIONAL DAY
AP
A Chinese flag flies over Beijing's Tiananmen Square on National Day,Oct. 1. Tens of thousands of Chinese crowded the square to look at newly erected decorations on the 53rd anniversary of the founding of communist China, on Oct. 1, 1949.

Skeptic on N. Korea leads delegation to Stalinist state

By Stephen Collinson

WASHINGTON—James Kelly, a trusted Republican policymaker, will be the first senior US official to venture to North Korea, Iraq or Iran, since President George W. Bush dubbed the trio of US foes an "axis of evil."

Kelly, due in Pyongyang on Thursday, is a confirmed skeptic on the Stalinist state in tune with the hardline tone of many Bush aides on North Korea, a stance which appears to have made him an ideologically safe choice for the mission.

"Jim is going to be a pretty hard-nosed representative of a pretty hard-nosed administration," said William Drennan, of the US Institute for Peace.

Kelly has warned publicly that without clear evidence from Pyongyang of a genuine commitment to change from a state locked in a Cold War embrace with the United States for more than 50 years, engagement with the North is doomed.

He told a congressional committee earlier this year, with a nod to President Kim Dae-Jung's signature policy of drawing the North out of isolation, that "Sunshine cannot cultivate a dry field."

In 1998, as president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' (CSIS) Pacific Forum in Hawaii, he staked out a position consistent with the subsequent tough ground on North Korea later occupied by the Bush administration.

"Firmness and realism" were crucial when dealing with the North, he said, and questioned the wisdom of allowing North Korea to swap concessions for food aid, at a time while it had more than a million men under arms.

"North Korea must understand that using its meager resources for ballistic missiles or any weapons of mass destruction will be responded to by immediate reductions in aid and support," he wrote in a briefing paper.

"Continued engagement, with firmness behind it, is what should be pursued."

The State Department has declined to provide a list of Kelly's delegation, other than to say it is composed of all branches of the US security establishment, including the Pentagon, national security council and military brass.

But it is clear that the team reflects disparate camps in the administration on how to deal with North Korea which have tussled behind the scenes for months, and led to doubts over the sincerity of Bush's offer to talk to Pyongyang at "any time, any place."

Representative of those seen in the pro-engagement camp is Jack Pritchard, State Department North Korea pointman, who worked on Pyongyang policy with Clinton-era officials who tried to conclude an agreement to end the North's missile program.

Also on Kelly's team, sources say, is Mary Tighe, a former White House official now with the Pentagon, who many analysts regard as about as hawkish on North Korea as it is possible to be. *AFP*

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Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Compostela execs back mayor on rebel attack

DAVAO CITY—The Municipal Mayors League of Compostela Valley threw its support behind Mayor Miller Alaba of Maco town, who is facing robbery charges after communist rebels used him to raid the town's police station.

The mayors passed a resolution expressing "genuine support . . . to the decision made by Mayor Alaba" to avoid bloodbath during the Sept. 24 incident.

Prior to their meeting, the mayors attended the provincial peace and order council meeting, where they were asked by the military to stay neutral in the charges against Alaba.

Col. Pedro Curva, commander of the Army's 701st Infantry Battalion, also warned the mayors could be cited for *sub judice* if they passed statements on Alaba's case.

Alaba is facing charges of robbery in band before the Ombudsman and the Department of Interior and Local Government.

The charge sheets said the mayor did not do anything to prevent the NPA rebels from raiding the police station.

He was allegedly a willing accomplice.

But the mayors said they would do the same if they were in Alaba's shoes.

In a press conference at the provincial capitol, Alaba has denied all allegations about his alleged connivance with the NPA to ransack his own police force and town hall.

He said his NPA captors led by Ka Lando were determined to pursue their plan of attacking the Maco police station with or without him.

Alaba maintained he was abducted while visiting Barangay Mapaang.

He said that contrary to the charges, he begged and pleaded to his captors not to proceed with their plan.

But the rebels told him they were just following orders from the higher NPA leadership and would risk being "court-martialed" by the communist movement.

The Maco mayor said he had no other option during that time except to prevent bloodshed.

The Mayors' league hailed Alaba's action as "praiseworthy because had he made any false move while entering the police compound of Maco, mass killings of policemen would have been inevitable, not to mention the civilians around who would be hit by stray bullets."

The Compostela Valley provincial council also commended Alaba for "(opting) to use himself as a pawn, as a shield to divert any untoward incident" which resulted in saving lives. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CULT leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. is caught with a young woman inside his cell. LITO TECSON

Ecleo brought back to jail

By Jolene Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The controversial "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association was brought back to the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center here immediately after government doctors released him from confinement at the Cebu City Medical Center (CCMC).

But instead of placing him in an isolation cell, cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. is now confined in a cell occupied by nine other prisoners, including ex-policeman Engelberto Durano, a suspected leader of a kidnap-for-ransom gang who was arrested last month after two years in hiding.

Ecleo was placed in an isolated cell in June when a fellow inmate ran amok and attacked him with an improvised knife.

Last Friday, however, he was caught with a young woman in his cell, forcing jail authorities to strip him of his privilege.

Ecleo was not supposed to enjoy conjugal visitation rights since he is a widower. Ecleo is in jail on parricide charges for the murder of his wife Alona Bacolod in January. He has strongly denied killing his wife.

Ecleo was rushed to the CCMC Sunday night because his blood pressure shot up when he learned he was being transferred to another cell that he had to share with other inmates.

Yesterday, doctors pronounced Ecleo out of danger since his blood pressure has normalized. His other laboratory tests also showed he was not suffering from any ailment that would require his continued confinement at the CCMC.

Dr. Danilo Sy, the attending physician, said there was nothing to worry about Ecleo's condition since he was only suffering from pneumonia and only had to take antibiotics for one week.

Ecleo was brought back to the BBRC at 10 a.m. yesterday amid tight security. He was placed and secured in a stretcher.

Supt. James Labordo, the acting jail warden, yesterday said he had to strip Ecleo of the privilege of having a prison cell based on an order of Sr. Supt. Maximo Altubar, Regional Director of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

Gun charge vs ex-UP campus editor, companion dismissed

CABAGAN, Isabela—A local judge on Tuesday dismissed the illegal possession of firearms charges filed against a former University of the Philippines student editor and her companion for lack of evidence.

Judge Alfredo Vergara of the regional trial court here dropped the charges against Kerima Lorena Tariman, 22, a former Philippine Collegian editor, and her companion, Eric Niño Amodo, 18, a high school dropout, during the promulgation of his Sept. 25 order here on Tuesday.

"The criminal information in both criminal cases . . . are hereby dismissed for insufficiency of evidence," Vergara said in his four-page decision.

The prosecution failed to prove that Tariman and Amodo were carrying guns when they were captured after a supposed encounter with government soldiers in Barangay Carmencita in Delfin Albano town on May 25, 2000.

The Army filed the case against Tariman and Amodo for supposedly possessing an M-16 Armalite rifle.

An Army team captured Tariman and Amodo after a firefight with at least 20 rebels led by a certain Ka Macky.

Tariman and Amodo, who were both wounded in the encounter, however, denied they were communist rebels. They said they were not carrying guns during the reported encounter.

They also said they were conducting a research on the situation of farmers in Delfin Albano and were merely caught in the crossfire.

Tariman and Amodo were detained for 20 days at the Isabela provincial jail in 2000 but were released after posting a P100,000 bail bond each.

Many students have been arrested in Isabela. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Japanese tourist falls to death in hotel lobby

CEBU CITY—A Japanese tourist accidentally fell to his death from about 25 feet high open-air lobby of the Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort in Lapulapu City yesterday.

Koji Suzuki, 55, of Nakanoko, Tokyo Japan, fell head first from the hotel lobby's railing to the cemented pavement that leads to the hotel grounds.

He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Mactan Community Hospital at 8:30 a.m., police said.

Suzuki was on his way to the checkout counter yesterday morning when his documents—that include his passport and plane ticket—were blown away by the wind and landed at the railings of the lobby.

Suzuki climbed at the railing to retrieve his papers but he fell to the ground instead.

Suzuki's body was brought to a funeral parlor in Cebu City. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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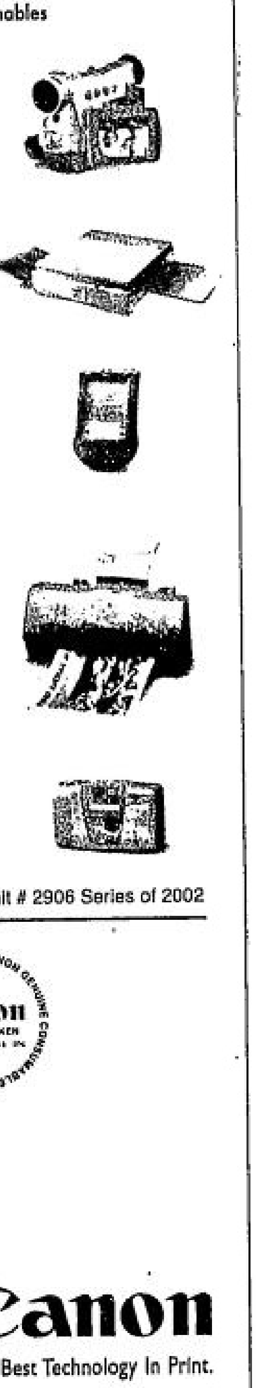

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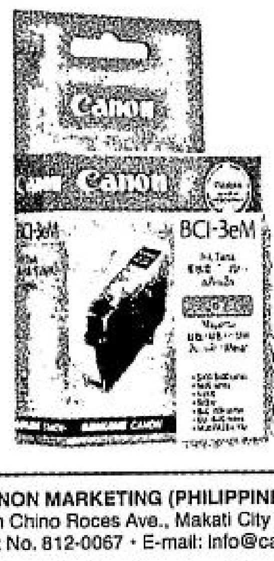

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October 2, 2002

An open letter to Juan Ponce Enrile

Dear Johnny,

I am addressing this open letter to you in answer to some of the questions you posed to me the past week. But frankly, my real audience is not so much you but the public who are not aware of what happened to Meralco and the Lopezes during martial law.

Most of what I say here is probably "old hat" to you, Johnny, since you were one of its main architects and main implementor of martial law.

It has been a painful process having to recollect and reconstruct the events that happened 30 years ago, but I had to do it in order to answer your accusations that my family willingly and voluntarily sold Meralco to the Meralco Foundation without coercion or duress. It may seem that way when you examine just the documents of the transaction. But those legal documents do not reflect the harsh reality that confronted the Lopezes during the martial law period. You must look at the totality of the situation in order to understand what really happened to the Lopezes during martial law.

I shall start my account of this period when my father, Eugenio Lopez, organized a group of Filipino investors into the Meralco Securities Corporation (MSC) to purchase Meralco from its American owners, General Public Utilities in 1961, in probably the first major exercise of a leveraged buyout in this country. At the time, there was a fair amount of skepticism about the ability of Filipinos to manage and operate one of the largest businesses in the country. But these fears proved to be totally unfounded and the decade of the 1960s turned out to be a golden age for Meralco.

MERALCO BLOOMS UNDER FILIPINO LEADERSHIP

Those ten odd years represent a springtime of great achievements, innovative management, enthusiasm and hard work. The new Meralco attracted a lot of young, bright and highly motivated Filipino managers, such as Vicente Paterno, a Harvard Business graduate, who later on became the founder of the 7-11 chain of stores in the country as well as a Philippine Senator; Antonio Ozaeta another Harvard Business School graduate who became Chairman of PCIBank; Oscar Reyes who became President of Shell Philippines; Christian S. Monsod, who had worked for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and also became a member of the Constitutional Commission in 1987 and Chairman of the Commission on Elections; Camilo Quiason, who became Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. There were also a sprinkling of elder statesmen as well as hardboiled businessmen such as Ambassador Emilio Abello and Alfredo Montelibano. I was proud to be part of this dynamic group as Vice President for Economic Research and Development in MSC for seven years prior to its being taken over by Marcos in 1973.

Once Meralco was in Filipino hands, it went on to expand its power generation capacity by an incredible five times in this 10-year period from 300 mw to 1,500 mw. In 1961, Meralco was greatly dependent on Napocor for 35% of its power requirements. But because Napocor was always delayed in bringing its hydroelectric power plants on line, Meralco frequently during the late 1950s had to resort to a system of rotating brownouts in Metro Manila.

When the Filipino group took over in 1961, it decided to remedy this power deficit situation by putting up one oil-fired power plant every 18 months, so that by 1972, after a decade of continuous expansion, Meralco was practically self-sufficient in power supply.

What was equally impressive was that all this growth was financed without reliance on government guarantees, but solely on Meralco's superior credit standing in both domestic and foreign bond markets.

MERALCO RATES WERE AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD

By 1966, Meralco had become the largest private corporation in the country in terms of assets. Furthermore, due to its economies of scale and efficiency in operation a United Press International survey in 1971 showed that Meralco rates were among the lowest in the Far East. And this was a favorite theme my father would return to time and again. At the inauguration of the 330 mw Snyder II Station in Sucat in May 1972, he said "We pride ourselves in saying that we have one of the lowest rates in the world. In Southeast Asia, we have the lowest rates, with the exception of Taiwan, where the utility is subsidized by the government. We have lower rates than those in Japan, Korea, Hongkong, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia."

In another speech, he said, "Meralco rates are among the lowest rates in the world. Compared to the 50 states in the U.S., Meralco is the lowest except in seven States."

It is difficult for us today who are paying more than P5/kwh to realize that in the 1960's, the Meralco customers were only paying an average of 6 centavos/kwh for their electricity. Those were really the good old days for the Meralco customers!

My father was also a firm believer in sharing the new wealth being created by the MSC group with as wide an ownership base as possible. Thus from the original 600 stockholders in 1961, the ownership base increased to 12,000 by 1972.

Unfortunately, this golden age came to an abrupt end when Martial Law was declared in 1972. The Lopez family was subjected to a long period of persecution during the next 14 years primarily because my father dared, through the pages of the Manila Chronicle, to be openly critical of the graft and corruption of the Marcoses. This criticism climaxed in a series of front page editorials and cartoons in January and February of 1971, which exposed the issue of the hidden wealth of the Marcoses long before the general public became fully aware of the extent of the rapacity and greed of that "conjugal dictatorship".

Deeply hurt by the media attacks against him and his wife, President Marcos launched a campaign against the "oligarchs" i.e. the Lopezes. Time and again during those days, he would say that this was a fight to the finish and that the "oppressive oligarchs" must go. Obviously, Marcos considered the Lopezes as the biggest stumbling block in his quest for absolute power.

Hence, when Martial Law was declared on September 21, 1972, the Manila Chronicle was shut down, ABS-CBN was seized and used by Marcos and his cronies without compensation. Meralco was placed under military control under Col. Francisco Gatmaitan, who was under orders from you, as martial law administrator. My uncle, Fernando Lopez was unceremoniously stripped of his position as Vice President of the Philippines; my elder brother, Geny, together with Senator Serge Osmeña were made to rot in a military prison for five long years until they made their spectacular escape to the U.S. in 1977. And my father was forced to live and die in exile in the U.S. because he refused to come to terms with the Marcos dictatorship.

But Marcos, being a shrewd politician, always measured his punches and calibrated his attacks against the Lopez businesses in accordance with the nature of those businesses. Thus in the case of Meralco Securities Corporation (MSC), the holding company of Meralco, Marcos knew it would be scandalous to use the same crude methods he employed with the Chronicle and ABS-CBN, primarily because MSC was a public corporation with more than 12,000 stockholders, including many foreign creditors and prestigious financial organizations in the MSC group of companies, such as International Finance Corporation and Private Investment Company of Asia.

THE CONSPIRACY TO ELIMINATE THE LOPEZES

The subtler methods nothwithstanding, the objective of Marcos remained the same: the elimination of the Lopezes from management and control of the MSC group of companies.

I was a witness to the conspiracy and systematic campaign of the Marcos group to wrest control of the Benpres and MSC groups of companies from the Lopez family. In view of the refusal of my father to return to the Philippines after his visit in June-July 1974, the incarceration of my brother from 1972, and the unfamiliarity of my uncle Fernando Lopez with the complexities of problems in the Lopez group of companies, I became in effect, during martial law, the senior Lopez executive whose responsibilities included MSC, Benpres Corporation, ABS-CBN and the Manila Chronicle. I was in the midst of all the negotiations regarding these companies.

The following series of events will prove that there was a real conspiracy to force the Lopezes out of MSC groups of companies:

1. In 1971, the late Antonio Ayala, who up to that time was with the government Board of Investments, decided to apply for a job at Meralco. My father took a liking to Ayala and he was made a Special Assistant to the President with the rank of Vice-President. Ayala was an important factor in the eventual turnover of the Benpres and MSC groups of companies to the Marcos-Benedicto-Kokoy Romualdez trio because he came to know the inner workings of the MSC group, and what is more important, he earned the trust of my father. But at the same time, Ayala owed his real loyalty to Kokoy Romualdez, who might be termed as the Marcos "account executive" in charge of Meralco. Ayala admitted to me his loyalty to Kokoy shortly after the declaration of martial law. Since he was actively serving as a go-between for the government and Kokoy on the one hand, and my father and Meralco on the other, I asked him in case there was conflict of interest, where would his loyalty be. He was candid enough to say that if he had to choose, he would have to side with Kokoy because of his association with Kokoy Romualdez since 1967, when he worked as Economic Attache and Special Assistant in the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. when Kokoy was our Ambassador to the U.S.

2. In May 1972, shortly before the imposition of martial law, Meralco was given a 36.5% rate increase by the Public Service Commission (PSC) due to the extraordinary increase in oil prices, as well as the deterioration in the value of the peso. But upon the declaration of Martial Law, the PSC was abolished and replaced by a Board of Power, which could decide on rates without public hearings. This board initiated a squeeze on Meralco's financial situation by reducing the 36.5% rate increase given by the PSC down to 20.9% early in 1973. This rate reduction had a domino-like effect on the finances of MERALCO, MSC and Benpres. All three institutions either had to postpone or default on maturing debt payments.

3. But the more far reaching action taken by the Marcos dictatorship against Meralco and private power in general was the promulgation on November 7, 1972 of P.D. No. 40 which gave Napocor the monopoly in generation and transmission.

4. Shortly before the declaration of Martial Law, President Marcos had already sent teams of Bureau of Internal Revenue examiners to scrutinize the books of Meralco.

5. On November 27, 1972, my brother Eugenio, Jr. or Geny, was arrested and placed in a military prison for the next five years. His imprisonment must be viewed in relation to the Marcos objective toward the Lopezes, which was to offer Geny's freedom as the ultimate prize for accomplishing everything the Marcoses wanted from my father.

Advt.

6. My father was asked to return to the Philippines by Kokoy Romualdez, as a gesture of goodwill and manifestation that he is not in exile organizing an opposition to the Marcos government. President Marcos himself said that Geny's case can be settled only by my father who should return to the Philippines for this purpose. My father complied and returned to Manila in June 1974, but he left the following month a very disappointed man, as no progress was made with respect to the release of my brother. The following year on July 6, 1975, he died of cancer in San Francisco without seeing the release of his son from prison.

7. Another martial law agency President Marcos created was the Power Development Council under Alejandro Melchor. On March 28, 1973, this Council required that as conditions precedent to granting Meralco any of the loan guarantees to restore Meralco"s financial viability: a) Meralco and MSC should come up with a plan for the disposition or divestment of Meralco shares held by MSC; b) that there be two government representatives on the board of Meralco; c) two government representatives should sit in the Meralco operating committees, namely management, purchasing and personnel; d) a cost-cutting program. All these conditions were complied with.

At the same time, an Inter-Agency Team, composed of representatives of different government offices having to do with the regulation of electric utilities, was sent to Meralco. This Team, also under Melchor, inquired into all facets and operations not only of Meralco, but also of all the other MSC companies. Major decisions in Meralco, including the hiring and firing of supervisory personnel and employees compensation were "cleared" first with the Inter-Agency Team.

8. Central Bank Governor Gregorio Licaros was also asked by the President to make a study of the financial problems of Meralco. In his memorandum to the President dated August 30, 1973, Licaros recommended, among other things, that if Meralco had a cash deficiency of 53 million, this should be injected in by MSC as additional equity to Meralco ; also that if Meralco creditors require a DBP guarantee, the DBP collateral should consist of conditional sale, not pledge of all MSC holdings of unencumbered common shares of Meralco, including all MSC-held shares in MSIC, PECCO, PHILEC and PPC.

On September 5, 1973, Governor Licaros wrote another memorandum to Marcos, informing him that he, Licaros, had met with the principal creditors of Meralco and MSC, namely Mr. Samuel Eastabrooks of FNCB, Mr. Ryozo Murofushi of Marubeni and Mr. Sixto Roxas of BANCOM, and that these creditors were informed of the observations of the President on the Licaros Memorandum dated August 30, 1973, which were as follows:

(1) *Neither the government, the DBP nor any other institution of the government may properly issue guarantees in favor of creditors of Meralco or MSC in view of Quo Warranto proceedings being instituted by the Solicitor General over the validity of the franchise of Meralco; and subsequent tax assessment of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue over Meralco;*

(2) *Action of government on Meralco proposal for guarantee has to await the final decision of the courts on the above cases, and a clear and positive act of Mr. Eugenio Lopez, together with other stockholders of Meralco and MSC on their proposals;*

(3) *The creditors should not be interfered with by government in the exercise of their rights to foreclose on defaults of Meralco and MSC.*

9. But the final insult was dealt at the annual stockholders' meeting of MSC on October 15, 1973. My father and his entire group of about 30 trusted officers including me were required to resign from MSC and its subsidiaries. This resignation en masse was an ignominious symbol of total capitulation to Marcos.

I shall never forget the words uttered by Kokoy Romualdez shortly after this occasion. He said, "It was a good fight between the President and your father but in the end the President had to win because he is the younger man, while your father is old and sick."

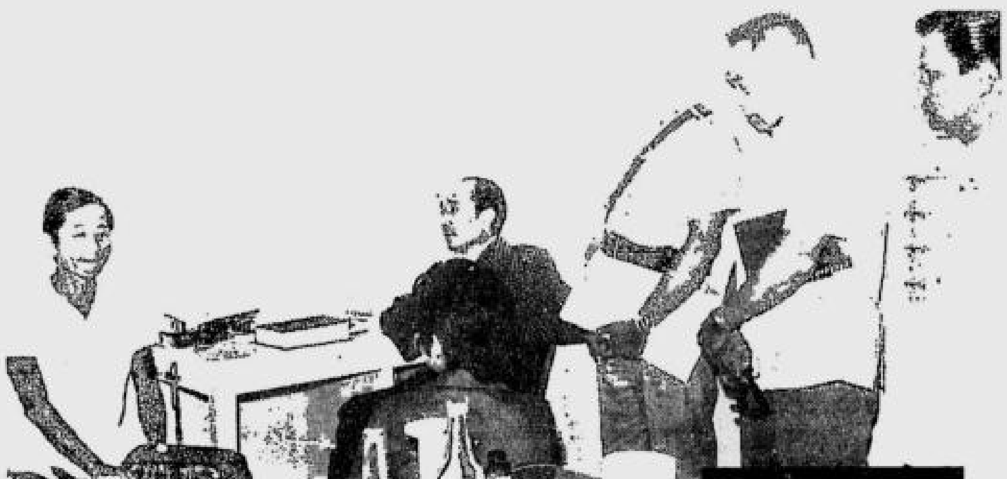
As a result of all these pressure points as orchestrated by the Marcos-Kokoy team, my father had no choice but to sign that infamous "Stock Purchase Agreement" between Benpres and the Meralco Foundation on November 29, 1973, which involved the sale of 5.9 million shares or 27% of MSC to the Meralco Foundation for P150 million over a 10-year period. But payment under this plan was made subject to availability of cash flow.

The Marcos-Kokoy Romualdez Group was, however, very careful to preserve the appearance and the fiction, that this was an agreement freely entered into by both parties, and that it was really my father who initiated all the moves for the sale of the family interest in the MSC Group of Companies.

Between February and November 1973, five letters were sent to President Marcos, composed by Ayala and then signed by my father, all of which talked about the "opportunity to participate in your program to democratize wealth and property for the greater good of our people."

In view of the continued imprisonment of my brother Geny and the hope that the MSC agreement between Benpres and Meralco Foundation would lead to his freedom, my father went along with this whole charade until the end of 1974. Besides, he was helpless to control the course of events as these events were actually being dictated by the Martial Law government of Mr. Marcos.

On November 18, 1974, apparently losing hope that they would be freed from prison, Geny and Serge went on a 10-day hunger strike to protest their continued imprisonment as well as to focus attention on the plight of all political prisoners in the country. After the termination of their hunger strike and recuperation, instead of being released as you Johnny as martial law administrator promised,Geny and Serge were informed that they would be charged with conspiracy to assassinate Marcos and were returned to prison.


Eugenio "Geny" Lopez, Jr. during his hunger strike in detention

Don Eugenio Lopéz shortly before he died in 1975 without seeing his son "Geny" free.

After it became clear your personal promise as martial law administrator of Geny's release from prison was a hoax, despite the transfer of ABS-CBN, MSC Group of Companies and other Benpres assets to cronies and entities associated with the Marcos regime, my father decided to break his long silence on this whole affair. He gave two lengthy interviews to Mr. Nick Benoza in the Philippine News on December 31, 1974 and January 22, 1975 wherein he stated that "our properties were given to the Marcos family through its front men in exchange for the release of my son and for the safety of our family ... until now, I could not disregard the danger to my son's life while he is held hostage by President Marcos. But it is my son who decided to risk his life for justice to all the Filipino people. I cannot hurt my son any longer and I have never worried about the danger to my life."

MR. BENOZA : *Mr. Marcos's government is obviously claiming that the takeover by Marcos of "industries vital to the country" will democratize property and disperse property ownership in the Philippines, thus resulting in the wider distribution of wealth. Is this principle working and is this goal being achieved.*

MR. LOPEZ: *That is all propaganda. The truth is Mr. & Mrs. Marcos now virtually own the Philippines, lock, stock and barrel. About this noble objective of wealth dispersal... what is happening is exactly the opposite. To me, this dispersal of ownership, martial law style, is economic banditry.*

KOKOY'S BOYS TAKE OVER

It is quite significant that after the signing of the Benpres-Foundation Stock Purchase Agreement, the government suddenly gave its full support to Meralco. Both DBP and PNB gave their guarantees for the restructuring and refinancing of the Meralco loans. And the Board of Power gave Meralco in 1974 a whopping 135% rate increase with automatic escalation clauses for fuel price and exchange rate increases. In addition, P.D. No. 551 in September 1974 lowered the franchise tax on revenues of electric utilities from 5% to 2% as well as the tariff on oil importation of electric utilities from 20% to 10%.

The forced sale of the MSC shares by Benpres to the Meralco Foundation was therefore, inequitous and oppressive. Under normal circumstances, if there was no design to dismantle the business holdings of my father, there would be no reason or logic to sell the shares of MSC, which ranked among the top corporations in the Philippines.

The evidence shows that on November 6, 1973 Meralco Foundation (MFI) was incorporated for the purpose of acquiring the shares of the Lopez group (27%) as well as other large stockholders in MSC until MFI had acquired 45% of MSC (now called First Philippine Holdings Corporation of FPHC). Realizing that further acquisition of MSC shares could prove costly, MFI decided to acquire Meralco directly from MSC. This was in line with the pronounced policy of the Marcos government to democratize wealth by mutualizing the ownership of Meralco to the hundreds of thousands of Meralco customers. But this grandiose plan was never implemented, partly because it was impractical and more importantly because there never was any honest intention to carry out this plan. The real objective of the Marcos-Romualdez group was to divest the Lopezes of control and ownership of MSC and Meralco, nothing more.

So, Johnny, I hope this recitation of historical facts surrounding the Meralco takeover by the Marcos Martial Law regime will refresh your memory on the circumstances behind the so-called deal. It is clear that it was less than voluntary on our part. Also, that contrary to your pronouncement, you arrested and detained my brother Geny as early as November 27, 1972, before you started formal negotiations on Meralco. The series of events proved the takeover was a premeditated move of Mr. Marcos acting through Kokoy Romualdez and his team. What surprises me however is, how you, as the martial law administrator, could even suggest a takeover deal as lopsided as that one, was undertaken as a free expression of our rights as owners of Meralco. It was clearly one undertaken in duress.

What I cannot understand is why you are desperately trying to revise history by deodorizing something that is undeniably an asset grab? Anyone with any sense of fairness and justice and cognizant of the abuses of martial law powers cannot but see the Meralco case in any other way. Besides, all the matters you brought out have been taken into account in arbitration proceedings and the Supreme Court before a much reduced portion of Meralco shares were returned to us.

I thought all along that because of Edsa 1 and your public repudiation of the Martial Law regime, you of all people know from a first hand perspective just how Mr. Marcos and his cronies used Martial Law for their undue advantage all cloaked under the guise of public interest. I should have known that as an active participant, there was no way you could liberate yourself from the clutches of those dark days. If in your twilight years you feel the need to quiet your conscience from your key participation in Mr. Marcos's martial law regime, please don't do it by trying to make one of its darkest deeds seem like a benevolent act, which it obviously isn't.

(SGD) Oscar M. Lopez

Advt.

Death of Cotabato archbishop mourned

COTABATO CITY—The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the Archdiocese of Cotabato and the Vicariate of Jolo are mourning the death of Cotabato Archbishop Emeritus Philip Smith.

Smith, the second archbishop of Cotabato, died of cardiac arrest Monday afternoon at the Notre Dame Hospital. He would have been 78 years old on Oct. 16.

"He died quietly and peacefully," said Fr. Federico Labaglay, superior of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the congregation where Smith belonged. He passed away while asleep.

"His deeds should remind us that this man loved the people of Cotabato, both Muslims and Christians," said Jovita Isnani of the Cotabato City general services office and a long-time friend of Smith.

Isnani described Smith as a very generous man who always saw to it that those who came for help would not go home empty handed. He initiated housing projects for the poor and underprivileged in Jolo and Cotabato.

Born in 1924 in Lowell, Massachusetts, USA, Smith served as priest for 52 years, 30 years of which were as bishop of Jolo and Archbishop of Cotabato.

He volunteered to be assigned in the Philippines in 1946 to help the Church "spread the good news to the poor."

His first assignment was as director of the Notre Dame of Pikit. In 1964, he became rector of the then Notre Dame Colleges in Cotabato City. He left Notre Dame University and became superior of the OMI scholasticate.

He was ordained bishop of Jolo on September 1972. Smith envisioned a project for the poor such as the establishment of housing projects to bring together Christians and Muslims, especially after the burning of Jolo in 1974.

His remains will be brought today to the Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral for the five-day wake. He will be laid to rest at the back of the Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral.*Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS. Lantern vendors, such as this one in Davao City, reminds Filipinos that Christmas is just around the corner.

BING GONZALES

Lapid asserts veto power, stops suspension of mayor

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid on Monday asserted his power to veto suspension orders from the provincial board, ending the debate started by Minalin town councilors through a sharp rebuke.

"It is the governor who has the sole power and prerogative to impose preventive suspension," Lapid said as several Minalin councilors questioned his power to reverse the 60-day preventive suspension order on Minalin Mayor Edgar Flores.

The councilors accused Flores of allegedly buying 20 overpriced hand-held radios last year. The Commission on Audit had declared the transaction legal and in order.

Lapid had not acted on the suspension order since the provincial board recommended it on Sept. 9.

He said he was not keen on implementing the order and had wanted the case resolved at the level of the Office of the Ombudsman where it was first filed.

In a meeting with reporters in Clark on Friday, the councilors said it would be bad precedent if Lapid insisted on not implementing the suspension order on the basis of "pity."

"We are not saying that it was wrong for Governor Lapid to be merciful. What we are saying is that he should not disregard his duty just because of pity," said Councilor Vanzalon Tizon.

The councilors who urged Lapid to implement Flores' suspension were Tizon, Edgar Yambao, Jerome Tongol, Romulo Mandap, Ricky Narciso and Marciano Sacdalan.

"They seemed to be saying that I don't know the law, as if I was a good-for-nothing governor," Lapid said.

Lapid, through provincial attorney Filmer Abrajano, issued a two-page letter that hoped to put an end to the debate, which had raged in local newspapers for almost a week.

Lapid said Section 63 of the 1991 Local Government Code empowers him to impose preventive suspension.

"It clearly shows that the power to impose preventive suspension over municipal officials is lodged solely on the governor," Abrajano said.

He said this power was "discretionary" and "definitely not ministerial." He explained that the provincial board conducting the administrative investigation did "not have the power to impose preventive suspension."

"It can only recommend (suspension)," he said.

Board Member Cris Garbo, who sponsored the resolution suspending Flores, disagreed on Monday with the municipal councilors.

"We recognized the prerogative of Governor Lapid over administrative cases. Else, why would we submit the recommendation to him for action? He really has the final say on preventive suspensions," Garbo said.

Abrajano said a preventive suspension order is not a "penalty" but a "remedy" to the complainants who await the final decision of the board on the case. *Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Guimaras suffers from blackout due to cut in submerged cable

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Thousands of residents of Guimaras province have been suffering from power blackout since Sept. 26 after the submarine electric cable connecting the province and Iloilo City was cut.

Jose Altamirano, general manager of the Guimaras Electric Cooperative (Guimelco), said part of the 2.2 kilometer-long cable was severed at 2:55 p.m. last Thursday, causing an island-wide blackout.

The damage was located 500 km off the cable terminal station at the western shoreline of the island in Barangay Sawang in Buenavista town, Altamirano said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

Altamirano said the blackout could last up to 20 days but the Guimelco repair crew and engineers of the National Electrification Administration are trying to restore electricity within the week. The repair is expected to cost at least P2 million.

The National Power Corp. supplies Guimelco about 900 kilowatts per month through the cable from the Napocor cable station in Barangay Ingore, La Paz District in Iloilo City. Guimelco, the sole power distributor on the island, has around 10,000 member-consumers.

Altamirano said they suspected that the cable was damaged when a dredging boat accidentally dropped anchor at the submarine cable line.

The boat, Philports D-4, owned by the Philippine Ports Authority, was dredging in the area when the blackout occurred, said Altamirano.

PPA Iloilo port manager Christian Santillan said he has not received reports that one of their dredging boats caused the blackout but he said he would investigate the reports.

Divers have located one end of the severed cable 120 feet underwater but are still scouring for the other part.

Since the blackout started, government offices and resorts on the island have been powered by power generating sets.

The provincial government and the disaster coordinating council have also offered assistance to speed up the repair, said Altamirano.

ROUNDUP

Off the hook

JAMINDAN, Capiz—A member of a prominent family here who was charged with homicide for the death of a man as a result of his indiscriminate firing got off the hook on technical grounds. Judge Ruben Lambuson of the Municipal Circuit Trial Court for Sigma-Sapian-Jamindan threw out the complaint against Rabboni Ricaforte, 32, on Sept. 16, citing the failure of relatives of the victim, Primitivo Pescuela, 33, to submit a counter-affidavit within the prescribed 10-day period. Ricaforte is a nephew of former tourism undersecretary Orestes Ricaforte, husband of the controversial Yolanda Ricaforte of the "jueteng" scandal that led to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada from power last year, and of former Jamindan mayor Ethel Ricaforte Jiñon.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Wanted man falls

LEGAZPI CITY—Police arrested one of the region's most wanted persons at Sta. Ana, Manila, on Sept. 24. Acting Masbate police provincial director Supt. Romeo Mapalo identified the suspect as Josefino Setenta, 35, married, a carpenter, of Barangay Iraya, Cawayan, Masbate. Setenta was arrested in connection with the deaths of Conrado Francisco and Wenefredo Cortes and the wounding of Francisco's wife Lorna on Feb. 15, 1993 at Iraya. The suspect was listed as the region's No. 6 most wanted person. A reward of P60,000 has been put up for information leading to his capture. He is now under police custody. *Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

IRA release ordered

SAN NARCISO, Zambales—Interior Secretary Jose Lina announced here last week the immediate and unconditional release of the Internal Revenue Allotment of local government units nationwide. Lina said the move was in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to remove all controls and hindrances that prevented the release of the IRA shares. He said a memorandum of agreement signed by the departments of finance, budget and management, and interior and local government, and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines also ordered the release of the 20-percent development fund of local governments that was withheld in August.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Museum closed

LAOAG CITY—The three-year-old Museo-Ilocos Norte here was closed down indefinitely by its officials following the looting of religious artifacts put on display for the centennial of the Philippine Independent Church. The looters took on Sept. 14 three 18th-century liturgical receptacles—a ciborium and two pieces of chalice owned by the PIC-Manila. The stolen artifacts, valued at P140,000, had been on display in the museum since Aug. 8. Araceli Drake, museum administrator, wrote Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to express concern about the absence of a 24-hour security detail around the museum premises. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER*Northern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandayrel ◈ *Bureau Chief* Rolando B. Fernandez

New mission for indigenous peoples' body

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

AMID pressures to scuttle it, the government body created through the landmark Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (Ipra), which was enacted in 1997, has begun to search its soul to seriously fulfill its mandate.

Vested interests, including mining corporations, have sought to cripple the Ipra and abolish the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) altogether, says NCIP Chair Evelyn Dunuan.

Indigenous peoples, meanwhile, are knocking on the doors of the NCIP to help protect them from mining corporations, which, they say, are invading indigenous land.

"How can we empower ourselves when our land—the source of our livelihood—are destroyed by big mining corporations?" asks Jurry Berres, a B'laan youth leader from Cotabato.

He cites a mining contract that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources awarded to an Australian firm, which, he says, allegedly bribed and appointed illegitimate tribal leaders.

He claims the company persuaded these "tribal leaders" to sign a supposed agreement accepting the company's mining operation over 99,400 hectares of B'laan land.

The supposed agreement, he says, was the company's way of circumventing the "free and prior informed consent" process of the Ipra.

Berres was among the indigenous peoples' representatives who trooped to Baguio City last Sunday for the launching of the Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples-sponsored Indigenous Peoples' Month celebration.

Litany of woes

Other indigenous leaders and representatives nationwide told their litany of woes to Dunuan, many of which involved dislocation and ecological destruction of their homeland due to big mining firms' incursion.

Amid the pressures and enormous tasks at hand, the NCIP has begun to "refocus its vision and mission" and fulfill its mandates under the Ipra, says Dunuan.

But the NCIP cannot do it alone. Dunuan thus enjoins the indigenous peoples' representatives, Church leaders and members of civil society to help bring about what she calls "a New NCIP" with "a new mindset and program."

When the NCIP was created after the Ipra was passed in October 1997, the NCIP simply absorbed the officials and personnel of the defunct Office of the Northern Cultural Communities and the Office of the Southern Cultural Communities.

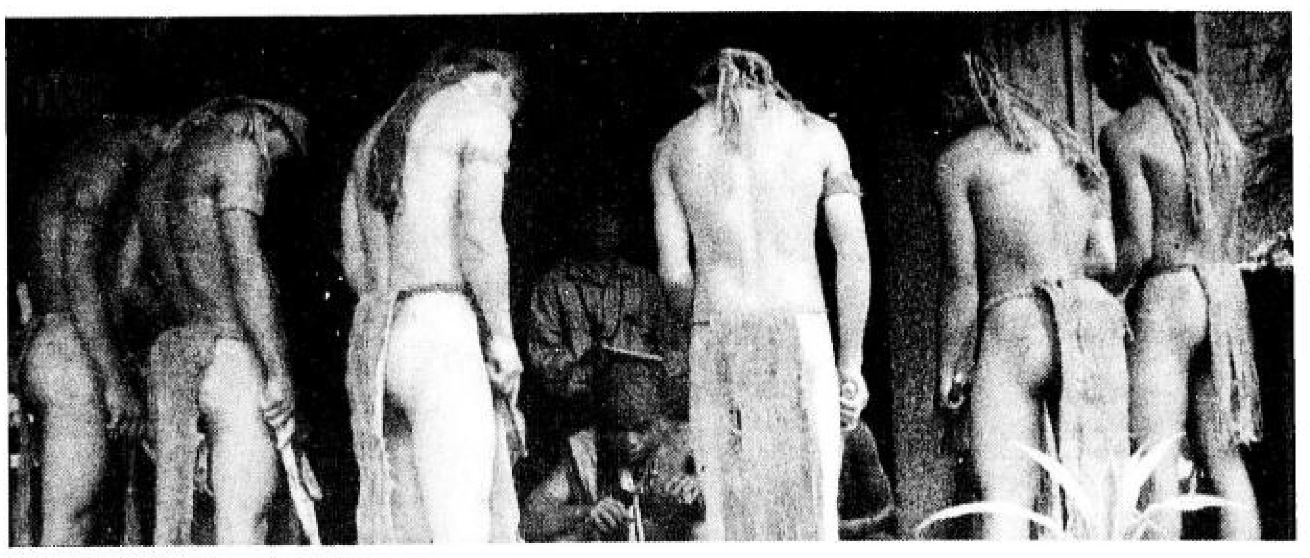
Unfortunately, many of the officials and personnel of both offices were protégés of some politicians. The result was devastating because the NCIP failed to deliver its mandates, says Dunuan, who has been NCIP chair since August last year.

The NCIP's core mandate is to lay down the mechanisms for the official recognition of the rights of indigenous communities to their ancestral land, domain and resources, and to own, protect, use and manage these according to their customary laws.

But the NCIP then had preoccupied itself with roles secondary to its main mandate. Dunuan cites scholarship programs, medical and dental missions, and tribal halls, which, she says, other government agencies should have implemented.

She says scholarship programs should be undertaken by the Department of Education; medical and dental missions by the Department of Health; and tribal halls by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

For Dunuan, it was time for NCIP to change course.



WEARING bark g-strings, students of Bakun, Benguet, offer prayers during the awarding of the first Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title to Bago and Kankanaey residents of the town.

NATHAN ALCANTARA

> Vested interests have sought to cripple the Ipra and abolish the NCIP

Three-pronged program

Since she was appointed NCIP chair, Dunuan has embarked on three program thrusts—ancestral land and domain delineation, helping indigenous communities prepare their Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development Protection Plan (ADSDPP), and protection of indigenous peoples' rights.

An ADSDPP, which must be done mainly by indigenous peoples themselves, is a strategic plan that lays out mechanisms on how an indigenous peoples' community uses, manages, protects and develops its ancestral domain and resources.

The three program thrusts seek to help "empower indigenous peoples to become self-reliant" and to determine development schemes that are best for them, says Dunuan.

Despite its flaws, the Ipra is actually a powerful legal tool for indigenous peoples, especially because the law provides for quasi-judicial processes that can look into violations of the Ipra, she says.

But vision and mission cannot work out without logistical support, which, Dunuan admits, is a big drawback for NCIP.

In delineating ancestral domain and land, for example, the NCIP badly needs basic survey equipment which other agencies, like the DENR and the Department of Agrarian Reform have.

Dunuan is appealing to these departments to turn over some of their survey equipment to the NCIP, which, she says, is the agency the Ipra mandated to survey indigenous peoples' land.

Before the Ipra was passed, the DENR was incharge of ancestral land surveys. The DAR had also surveyed some indigenous peoples' land and issued Certificates of Land Ownership Awards.

Congress, in its 2003 budget proposal, also seeks to reduce the NCIP's budget.

"This is where indigenous peoples' communities can come in to help (lobby for a sufficient NCIP budget)," says Dunuan.

Safety net

Bishop Francisco Claver, S.J., of the Bontoc-Lagawe Catholic Vicariate, says the Ipra, if fully implemented, remains the indigenous peoples' "real safety net against the harmful effects of an unchecked globalized economy" that is now "gobbling up" the natural resources in indigenous communities.

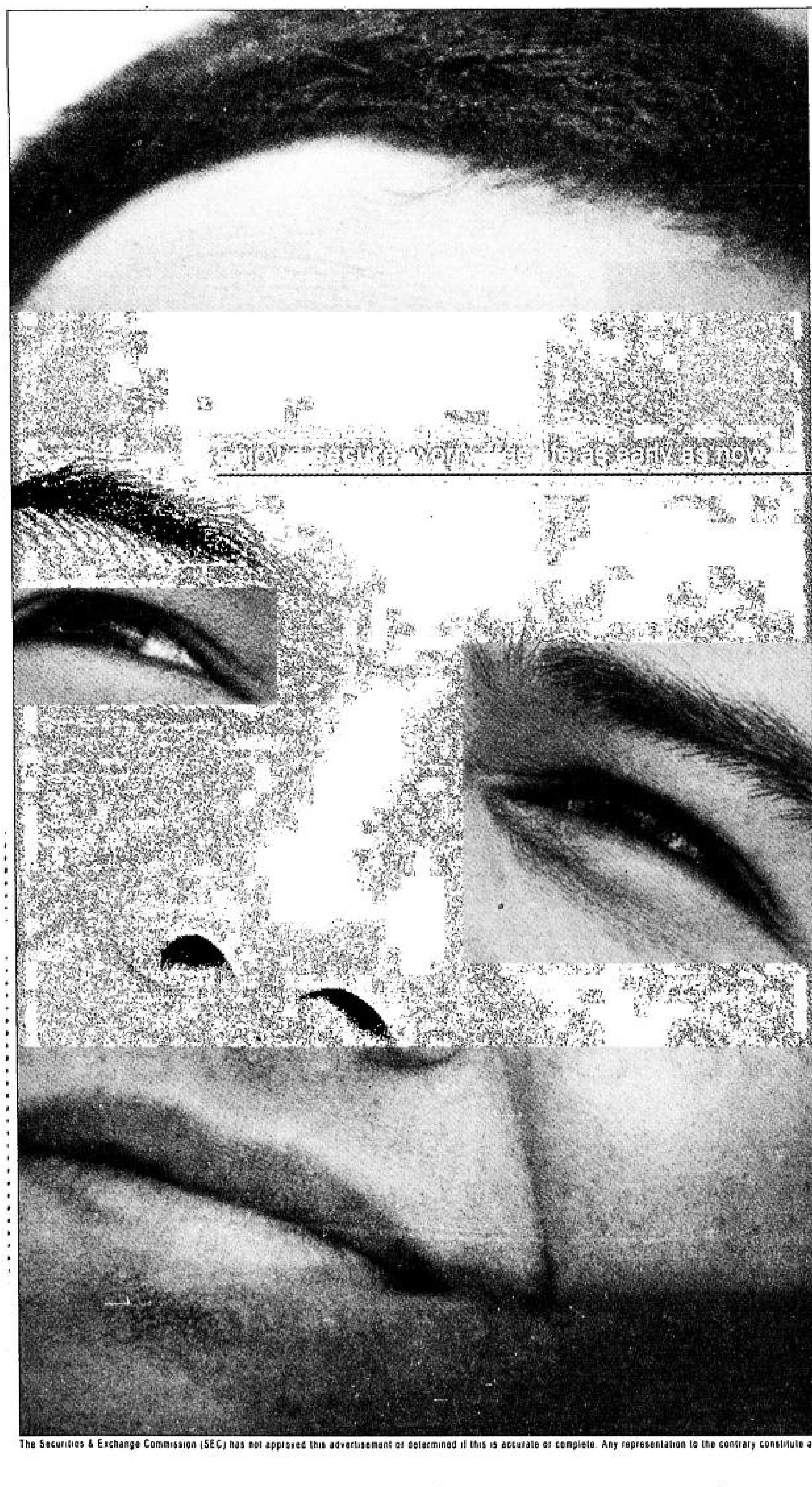
Claver chairs the Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

"You tell government that it should understand you. But do you also seek to understand government? It is time we listen to each other and pave the way for dialogue," he told the indigenous peoples' representatives gathered in Baguio last Sunday.

It was the bishop's way of exhorting indigenous peoples to work with the NCIP, which, Dunuan says, "rich and powerful entities," including big corporations, want abolished.

"And once the NCIP becomes vulnerable to pressures, I fear what happens," warns Dunuan. "Even at the United Nations, big powerful lobby groups from corporations are challenging the draft Declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Rights."

The draft declaration and the International Labor Organization Convention 169 were among the vital international documents upon which the Ipra was patterned. The Philippines, along with many other Asian countries, has yet to ratify both documents, which recognize the rights of indigenous peoples.



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SECURITY MATTERS
Joint Cabinet and National Security Council meeting is held at the Palace's Heroes Hall on Tuesday. With President Macapagal, from left, Secretaries Jose Lina, Angelo Reyes, Alberto Romulo, former President Cory Aquino and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez. EDWIN BACASMAS

Search on for 2 journalists

From page A1

Supt. Arip Baanan, Sulu police chief, said that he had already submitted a spot report to Chief Supt. Acmad Omar, police director of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao that has jurisdiction over the province.

Baanan said followers of Nur Misuari, jailed leader of a breakaway faction of the Moro National Liberation Front, were behind the abduction of the two journalists.

"There are no Abu Sayyaf (bandits) in the area where the two were reportedly brought by a woman guide," the Sulu police chief said.

Baanan said Lorenzo and Ordiales were last seen in Barangay Kagay.

He said Lorenzo and Ordiales hired a certain Ammil Paradji to drive them to Indanan where they planned to interview three Indonesian tugboat crewmen kidnapped at sea off Sulu on June 17.

Paradji later told police that he and the two journalists were met by armed men. At one point, Paradji reportedly excused himself to check on his van and returned to discover the journalists and the armed men gone.

Sources said military officials had questioned a local identified as Hadja Jurma Leng Imran who allegedly helped the journalists arrange interviews with the Moro bandits.

Both Leng and Paradji have reportedly denied any role in the disappearance of the two journalists.

Jikiri said that Leng was helping in the negotiations for the release of the Indonesian hostages. Four Filipino women belonging to the Jehovah's Witnesses are also being held by bandits in Sulu.

The military has discouraged the media from venturing into the hinterlands of Sulu because of frequent clashes and the presence of many armed groups, including the Abu Sayyaf that has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Two years ago, Abu Sayyaf bandits snatched scores of foreign and Filipino journalists who traveled to Sulu to cover the captivity of 21 Western tourists and Asian workers abducted from the Sipadan dive resort in Malaysia.

The hostages, along with the journalists, were freed in batches after the payment of large ransoms.

Filipino soldiers, including some trained recently by US forces, have been waging intermittent assaults to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf on Sulu. The main Abu Sayyaf faction has reportedly been decimated on nearby Basilan island after months of US-backed military offensives. *Reports from Julie S. Alipala and Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP; Reuters*

Fake Marcos, bogus gold, real jail time

From page A1

Even his age is suspect. Del Carmen claims to be 60 years old, but prosecutors believe he is only 40. A native of the Philippines, he had lived for a time in Oxnard, California.

Using his Marcos alias, Del Carmen claimed that as the late dictator's first-born son he had acquired a large percentage of his family's fortune. The bounty supposedly included billions of dollars in gold. He also claimed to own more than $5 trillion in US Federal Reserve notes.

Ferdinand Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, more than three years after he was driven from his homeland at the height of the Edsa People Power Revolution.

Del Carmen, who said his funds were tied up in gold certificates, ran up more than $500,000 in debt, including a $200,000 bill at Hong Kong's Hyatt Regency, where he had lived in its Presidential Suite.

He gave a bogus gold certificate, purportedly issued by the Union Bank of Switzerland, as collateral for his outstanding debt, prosecutors said. The certificate said Del Carmen owned about 3,500 metric tons of gold.

In April 2000, Del Carmen met an undercover agent posing as a broker seeking assets for a Wall Street brokerage firm.

During one meeting, Del Carmen showed the agent a pair of gold dog tags that he claimed gave him access to the Swiss bank's vault, which supposedly housed the gold he allegedly owned.

Prosecutors said that among the problems with Del Carmen's claims, one stood out: The floor of the bank vault is incapable of housing that much gold because it would collapse under the weight and sink into the ground. *Reuters*

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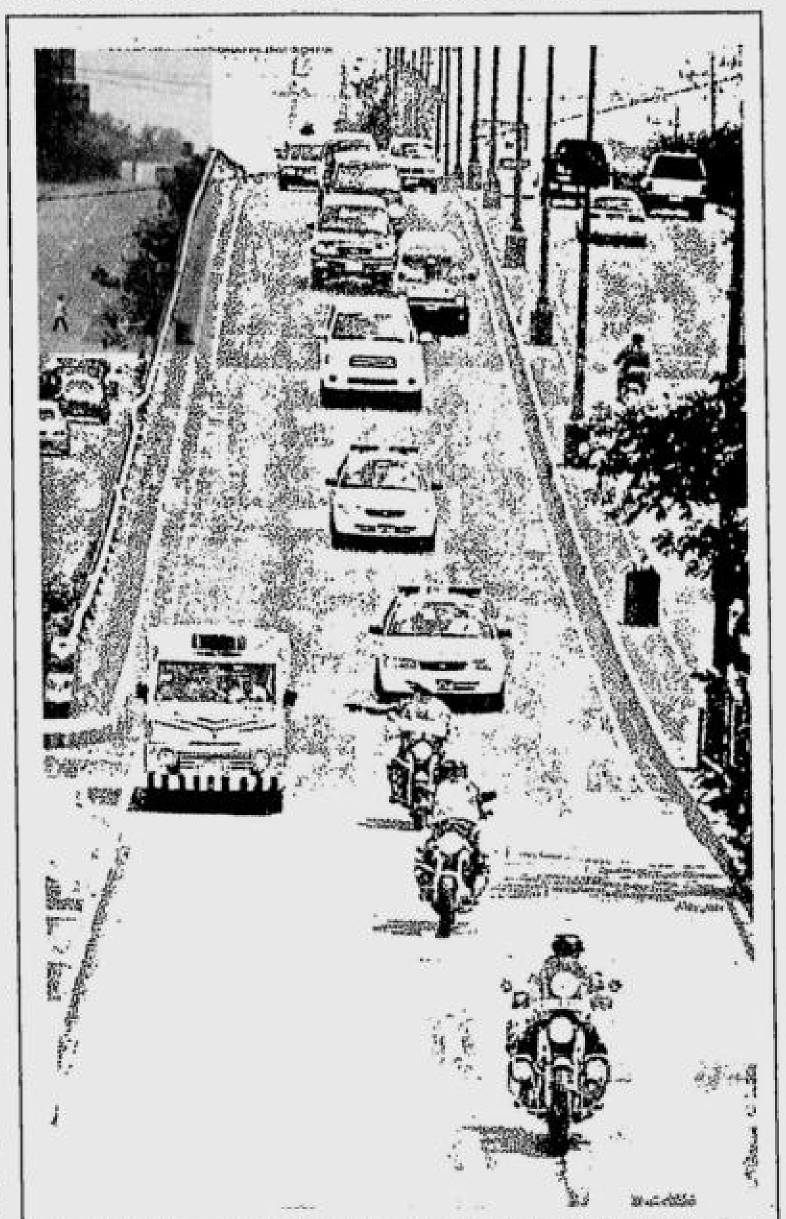
LATEST NPA RAID: A full alert is in place at the 306th Bulacan Mobile Group after alleged NPAs fired at its command post in Barangay Sampaloc, San Rafael, Bulacan. Shown are SPO1 Paraz and Supt. Wilhelm Barlis. JOAN BONDOC



IF THERE's a convoy of cops speeding down the highway, can the country's foremost jailbird be far behind? ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Hospital bills PNP P6M for Erap guards

From page A1

dial rights over him," said Blancaflor, a lawyer, who took over the hospital's top post last July.

Except for his lodging, which is free of charge, Estrada himself pays for his own expenses. Aside from the nurses who check on his blood pressure regularly, Estrada does not avail of the hospital's services.

"They bring in their own food, they have their own doctors and they buy their own medicines," Blancaflor said. He added that he "talks to the PNP more on Erap's situation" rather than to the former President himself.

Separate meters

Next month, Blancaflor said areas occupied by the policemen will be given separate meters for light and water consumption.

He said the VMMC, like other government agencies, had to cut down on expenses and look for other sources of income to make up for the budgetary shortfall of the national government.

In July, he said, the hospital checked its billings from the Meralco and the MWSS from May, 2001 to July, as against the bills before Estrada was confined at the VMMC.

"We computed the increase and that's what we charge the PNP. We are open to negotiation," Blancaflor said.

Last week, Blancaflor said the PNP sent an engineer to the VMMC to "verify" the amount and to check if it was "reasonable."

"I think it is also to the interest of the veterans that we collect from the PNP," he said.

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SECURITY MATTERS
Joint Cabinet and National Security Council meeting is held at the Palace's Heroes Hall on Tuesday. With President Macapagal, from left, Secretaries Jose Lina, Angelo Reyes, Alberto Romulo, former President Cory Aquino and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez. EDWIN BACASMAS

Search on for 2 journalists

From page A1

Supt. Arip Baanan, Sulu police chief, said that he had already submitted a spot report to Chief Supt. Acmad Omar, police director of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao that has jurisdiction over the province.

Baanan said followers of Nur Misuari, jailed leader of a breakaway faction of the Moro National Liberation Front, were behind the abduction of the two journalists.

"There are no Abu Sayyaf (bandits) in the area where the two were reportedly brought by a woman guide," the Sulu police chief said.

Baanan said Lorenzo and Ordiales were last seen in Barangay Kagay.

He said Lorenzo and Ordiales hired a certain Ammil Paradji to drive them to Indanan where they planned to interview three Indonesian tugboat crewmen kidnapped at sea off Sulu on June 17.

Paradji later told police that he and the two journalists were met by armed men. At one point, Paradji reportedly excused himself to check on his van and returned to discover the journalists and the armed men gone.

Sources said military officials had questioned a local identified as Hadja Jurma Leng Imran who allegedly helped the journalists arrange interviews with the Moro bandits.

Both Leng and Paradji have reportedly denied any role in the disappearance of the two journalists.

Jikiri said that Leng was helping in the negotiations for the release of the Indonesian hostages. Four Filipino women belonging to the Jehovah's Witnesses are also being held by bandits in Sulu.

The military has discouraged the media from venturing into the hinterlands of Sulu because of frequent clashes and the presence of many armed groups, including the Abu Sayyaf that has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Two years ago, Abu Sayyaf bandits snatched scores of foreign and Filipino journalists who traveled to Sulu to cover the captivity of 21 Western tourists and Asian workers abducted from the Sipadan dive resort in Malaysia.

The hostages, along with the journalists, were freed in batches after the payment of large ransoms.

Filipino soldiers, including some trained recently by US forces, have been waging intermittent assaults to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf on Sulu. The main Abu Sayyaf faction has reportedly been decimated on nearby Basilan island after months of US-backed military offensives. *Reports from Julie S. Alipala and Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP; Reuters*

Fake Marcos, bogus gold, real jail time

From page A1

Even his age is suspect. Del Carmen claims to be 60 years old, but prosecutors believe he is only 40. A native of the Philippines, he had lived for a time in Oxnard, California.

Using his Marcos alias, Del Carmen claimed that as the late dictator's first-born son he had acquired a large percentage of his family's fortune. The bounty supposedly included billions of dollars in gold. He also claimed to own more than $5 trillion in US Federal Reserve notes.

Ferdinand Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, more than three years after he was driven from his homeland at the height of the Edsa People Power Revolution.

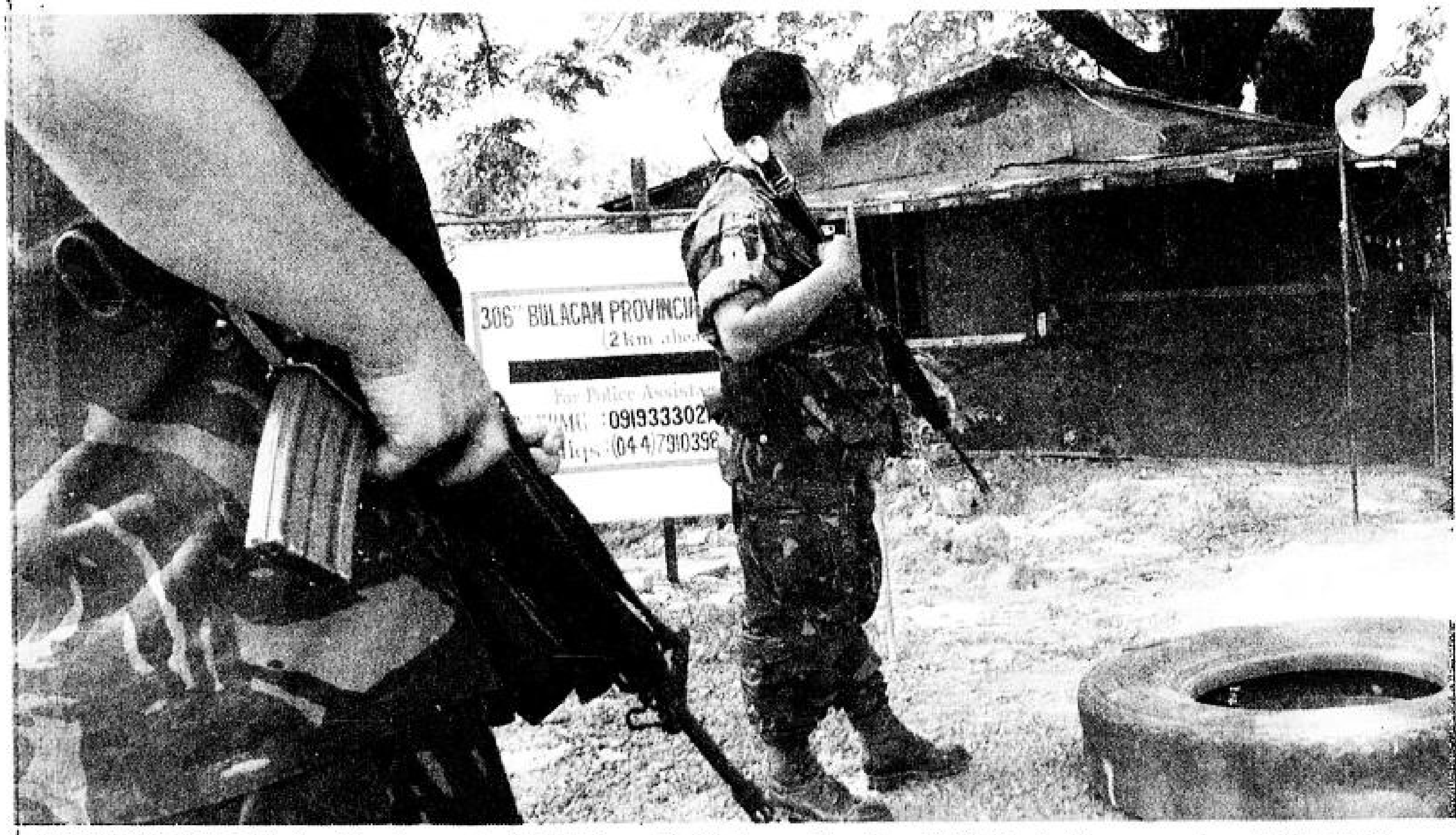
Del Carmen, who said his funds were tied up in gold certificates, ran up more than $500,000 in debt, including a $200,000 bill at Hong Kong's Hyatt Regency, where he had lived in its Presidential Suite.

He gave a bogus gold certificate, purportedly issued by the Union Bank of Switzerland, as collateral for his outstanding debt, prosecutors said. The certificate said Del Carmen owned about 3,500 metric tons of gold.

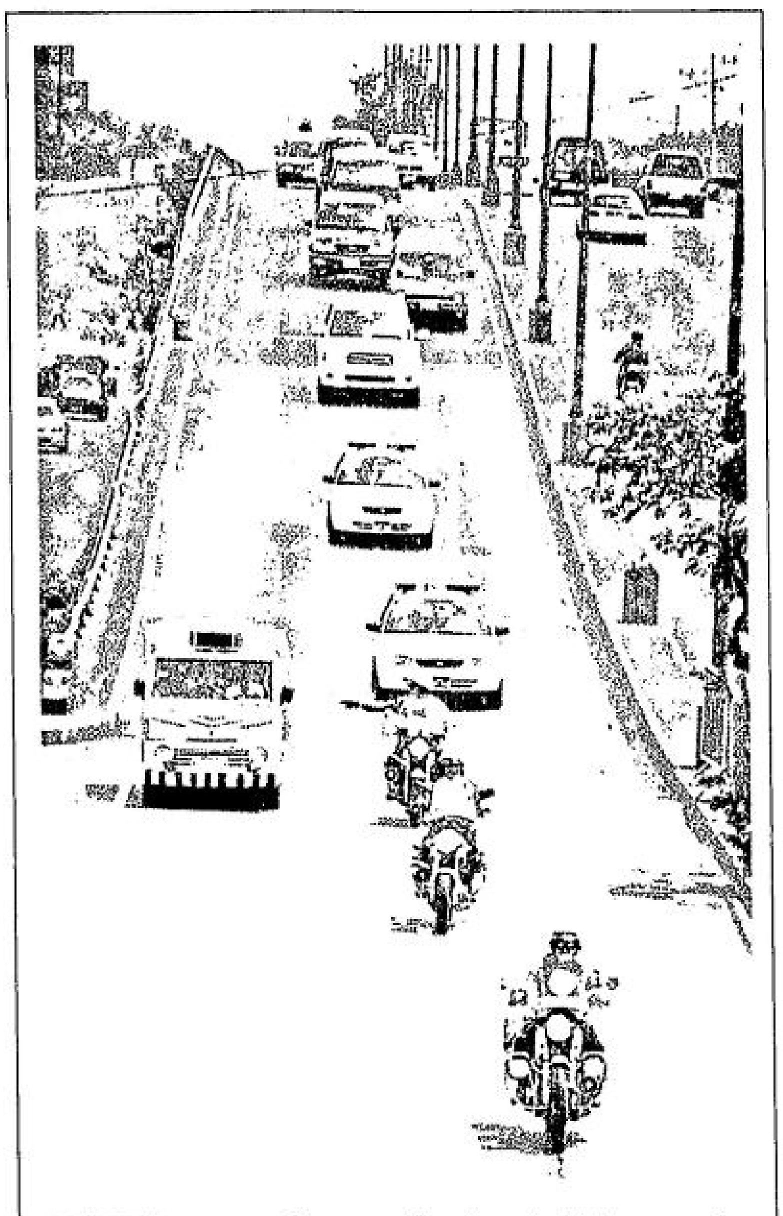
In April 2000, Del Carmen met an undercover agent posing as a broker seeking assets for a Wall Street brokerage firm.

During one meeting, Del Carmen showed the agent a pair of gold dog tags that he claimed gave him access to the Swiss bank's vault, which supposedly housed the gold he allegedly owned.

Prosecutors said that among the problems with Del Carmen's claims, one stood out: The floor of the bank vault is incapable of housing that much gold because it would collapse under the weight and sink into the ground. *Reuters*



LATEST NPA RAID: A full alert is in place at the 306th Bulacan Mobile Group after alleged NPAs fired at its command post in Barangay Sampaloc, San Rafael, Bulacan. Shown are SPO1 Paraz and Supt. Wilhelm Barlis. JOAN BONDOC



IF THERE's a convoy of cops speeding down the highway, can the country's foremost jailbird be far behind? ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

Hospital bills PNP P6M for Erap guards

From page A1

dial rights over him," said Blancaflor, a lawyer, who took over the hospital's top post last July.

Except for his lodging, which is free of charge, Estrada himself pays for his own expenses. Aside from the nurses who check on his blood pressure regularly, Estrada does not avail of the hospital's services.

"They bring in their own food, they have their own doctors and they buy their own medicines," Blancaflor said. He added that he "talks to the PNP more on Erap's situation" rather than to the former President himself.

Separate meters

Next month, Blancaflor said areas occupied by the policemen will be given separate meters for light and water consumption.

He said the VMMC, like other government agencies, had to cut down on expenses and look for other sources of income to make up for the budgetary shortfall of the national government.

In July, he said, the hospital checked its billings from the Meralco and the MWSS from May, 2001 to July, as against the bills before Estrada was confined at the VMMC.

"We computed the increase and that's what we charge the PNP. We are open to negotiation," Blancaflor said.

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Mark Jimenez has become a higher flight risk–DOJ

From page A1

DOJ had not been as eager to pursue the case of former Quezon Gov. Eduardo Rodriguez and his wife which was ahead of that of Jimenez. The Rodriguezes, who are wanted in the United States for insurance fraud, have posted bail but the DOJ is contesting it like in Jimenez's case.

"We are too eager to have MJ imprisoned," Rep. Benasing Macarambom said in Filipino.

Rep. Constantino Jaraula said that by asking the Manila RTC to issue the warrant of arrest before Jimenez could exhaust his 15 days to appeal, the DOJ was showing it does not respect the rules of court.

"I am inclined to believe there is a very clear political color in the DOJ stance," Jaraula said, adding that Jimenez was being pressured to testify against his friend, ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"If that is the connection, I condemn that stance," Jaraula said.

"You cancelled his passport, you put him on the hold departure order. Isn't that enough?" Rep. Jacinto Paras said.

He also asked why Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who did not attend the hearing, was very eager to have Jimenez jailed.

Rep. Willie Villarama said he was saddened by the DOJ's eagerness on Jimenez's case while dragging its foot on the extradition of Arturo Pacificador, the mastermind in the assassination of Marcos opposition leader Evelio Javier.

Villarama said the DOJ was giving foreign employers of Filipino overseas workers an "instrument to blackmail our OFWs."

He said the OFWs could be victims of trumped up charges and extradited if they flee to the country.

US pressure

Rep. Marcelino Libanan, chair of the justice committee, asked Gutierrez if there was "extraordinary pressure from the US" on the Jimenez case.

The justice undersecretary said it was public knowledge that ranking US officials who visited the country made specific references to Jimenez's extradition. "But it does not mean we're being pressured by the US. We're just trying to comply with our treaty. We're just doing our job," she said.

After the hearing, Marcos said she was approached by Jimenez because of her defense of the high court's ruling. "This is my life (at stake here), not a contract," Marcos quoted Jimenez as saying.

She said Jimenez told him of his 11 children who would be affected by his extradition. "It's really sad," Marcos said, but stressed that lawmakers must uphold the law.

"Perhaps this is not Congress' brightest hour," she said. "But I hope that emotions will subside and we will not just think of defending our colleagues," she said.

Marcos was the lone voice appealing for respect for the Supreme Court ruling during the past two days while Congress was tackling the Jimenez case in session.

She said on Monday that Congress should not be perceived to be a refuge of alleged criminals and other violators. "Many of you are not lawbreakers and we must be seen to uphold the laws and the rule of law," Marcos said.

NBI not very eager to arrest Jimenez

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHO says the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is very eager to arrest Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez?

"We need it like we need a hole in the head. We realized that we have to deal with Jimenez's supporters," said lawyer Ricardo Diaz, NBI spokesperson and Interpol chief.

He said there would be pressure on the bureau's security men if Jimenez was detained in the NBI. "We might be able to deal with his supporters if they hold rallies. But what about the traffic jam they might cause?" Diaz said.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the bureau would ask help from the police should Jimenez's supporters stage rallies at the NBI and become to rowdy.

"It would be a challenge for the Security Management Division to have a distinguished and high-profile person like Jimenez," Diaz said.

But he quickly added that NBI agents were willing to be arrested just to serve the arrest warrant on Jimenez. Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said the House of Representatives could have anyone who would arrest Jimenez jailed by citing them in contempt of Congress.

"We are willing to have ourselves arrested to clear the issue once and for all. We're simple law enforcers following orders," Diaz said. "If those lawmakers want to have us arrested, then we're ready to have ourselves arrested. Perhaps that's what we get for doing our job."

Under the country's extradition law, the NBI is the agency tasked with arresting persons wanted for extradition. As of yesterday, the NBI was still waiting for the Manila Regional Trial Court to issue an arrest warrant on Jimenez.

The anti-death penalty panel of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, meanwhile, cited the Jimenez case to illustrate that the justice system in the country was biased toward the rich. *With a report from Armand Nocum*

Roco sums up disenchantment . . .

From page A1

like himself, the other PPC leaders had become disillusioned with the President because she had "forgotten the commitments she made at Edsa Dos and broken covenant with some in the coalition."

'Not feeling very good'

Roco noted that since Ms Macapagal replaced Joseph Estrada as President as a result of the people's uprising on Jan. 16-20, 2001, she had broken covenant with Vice President Teofisto Guingona and with himself.

He said that he was regularly in touch with Osmeña and De Villa, and that it was his impression that the members of Promdi and Reporma were "not feeling very good" about the way Ms Macapagal was running the government.

"I do know that they feel that the ideals of Edsa Dos have been neglected," he said. "Even the nongovernment organizations at Edsa Dos are unhappy."

Roco pointed out that "truth and justice were the demand at Edsa Dos," which the Macapagal administration had not fulfilled.

"Is truth being served by photo opportunities?" he said, referring to the President's deliberate high visibility. "Photo opportunities are propaganda, and somebody said that if you keep having photo opportunities, you become a photo opportunist."

Roco also said the Philippines was becoming known as the country that could build the most expensive one-kilometer road—a reference to the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, named after the incumbent's father, which was reportedly overpriced by P600 million.

"That is why," he concluded, "the PPC could choose a standard-bearer other than (Ms Macapagal) in 2004."

'Baguio vegetables' come from Australia

From page A1

The vegetables include broccoli, lettuce, carrot, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, potato and mushroom.

"In the spirit of transparency, we are disclosing to the public the list of some 14 importers so that our local farmers and consumers can be guided on what to do," Montemayor said.

Besides Rustan's, the other importers are Leysam Commercial, Santag Commodities, Australasia Food and Beverage Corp., and Wendenberg International. The Asian Development Bank Commissary, Philippine Airlines, Tuckerbag Inc., Australian Prime, Macro Asia Eurest, Pacific Alliance, Blue Dairy Corp., AFPC Property Ltd., and Mount Zion Express.

The importers brought in at least 37 kinds of vegetables that directly compete with local produce, according to Montemayor.

"We cannot discourage importation, but importing companies should be reminded of their corporate social responsibility and should engage in patronizing local produce because the goods they buy abroad are being produced in the country in sufficient quantity," the agriculture secretary said.

Bureau of Plant and Industry records showed that Rustan's, which is also known to be engaged in chicken and meat import business, brought in 4.98 tons of carrot in the first nine months, or 82 percent of the total registered carrot imports this year.

The supermarket also imported 1.34 tons of potato (74 percent of the total); 1.14 tons of leek (42 percent); 2.18 tons of cabbage (45 percent); 1.04 tons of mushroom (52 percent); and, 2.7 tons of cauliflower (22 percent), among other vegetables.

In the rice sector, militant farmers denounced government importation of the cereal and demanded a 100-percent increase in the farmgate price of *palay* (unhusked rice) from P7.50 to P15 a kilo.

The Alyansa ng Magbubukid ng Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said the Macapagal administration's policy of trade liberalization, importation and rampant rice smuggling were the "main culprits" in the steep drop of the prices of palay.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo is the biggest 'rice smuggler' in the country. She has legalized rice smuggling in the name of rice importation and liberalization," said AMGL chair Rod Flores. "The flooding of imported rice in our local market is the main reason prices of palay have dropped."

During the harvest season in October-December last year, some farmers were forced to sell palay to traders for as low as P5 per kilo.

A total of 800,000 metric tons of rice will arrive in the first quarter of 2003, according to the National Food Authority. This year's rice imports from Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan and India are pegged at 1.14 million metric tons.

Flores said there was no urgent need to import rice because local production was enough to meet demand. He said a one-hectare farm could produce an average yield of 3 metric tons (MT) of palay and at least 1.8 MT of rice.

"What the government must do is to immediately stop rice importation, land use conversion and focus on subsidizing local agriculture and increase its local procurement of palay," he said.

'Make guards serve terms of escapees,' says lawmaker

From page A1

native who has been living in the Philippines, and the "alleged connivance of some elements of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency."

In a statement, Remulla said President Macapagal-Arroyo should relieve all PDEA personnel to prevent a whitewash of the investigation. He also expressed the suspicion that Tan, also known as Eddie Tan or Eddie Ong, could not have escaped from the PDEA detention center in Camp Crame without the help of his jail guards.

Tan was arrested in Zambales last November along with two other Chinese nationals, Cai Hong Ze and William Chua, for possession of 350 kilograms of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride).

Courts can impose the death penalty for possession of 50 grams (1.76 ounces) or more of shabu.

The case against Tan and his co-accused has been transferred to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. Undersecretary Anselmo Avenido Jr., PDEA director general, has requested the executive judge of the court to issue an arrest order on Tan.

Avenido sent a letter to the President last Monday explaining the circumstances behind Tan's escape and informing her that he had asked the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold-departure order on the fugitive.

Tan has not attempted to leave the country as of noon yesterday, according to Rudy David, immigration intelligence officer at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Apart from launching a manhunt, the PDEA has yet to establish how Tan managed to saw off the window grills of his cell, climb out, and clamber up the 12-foot-high perimeter fence inside the camp without being detected by the guards on duty. Tan shared the cell with his two co-accused, who surprisingly stayed put.

"There should be no excuse for jail guards who cannot keep their prisoners behind bars," Remulla said.

He said Tan and other big-time suspects had managed to bolt prison because "penal laws are too soft against jail guards and penal authorities who aid prisoners in their escape."

All angles

Avenido has ordered the PDEA Internal Affairs Service to investigate duty warden PO3 Armando Ibasco, officer on duty Rolando Cana, and guard SPO4 Pedro Doctolero, among other officers.

"We're looking at all angles. (Tan's) own visitors may have provided the saw that he used in the escape. Or it could have been an inside job," said Chief Supt. Rodolfo Caisip, newly designated PDEA deputy director general.

But a police official who requested anonymity said the escape was a result of the guards' laxity.

"Obviously, there's a security lapse," the official said. "They should have (instituted) a man-to-man guarding system instead of only two guards going around at a given time."

Tan was among 11 detainees held in three cells. The PDEA has decided to put the remaining 10 in a single cell for close monitoring.

With Tan's escape, Avenido reiterated the PDEA's earlier request to the local courts to issue orders committing the remaining detainees to regular jail facilities for security reasons.

The Associated Press quoted Interior Secretary Jose Lina as saying that the guards at the detention center had been relieved of duty.

"Administrative and criminal charges are being (prepared) depending on the outcome of the investigation already being conducted," he said.

Responding to criticism, Lina acknowledged the "need to improve the jail system within Camp Crame."

The Revised Penal Code provides that any public officer found guilty of infidelity in the custody of prisoners, either through connivance or negligence, should be punished with a jail term of six months and one day at least and six years at most, Remulla said in citing "soft" penal laws.

This is also a bailable offense, he said, and noted that if found guilty, jail personnel have the option to apply for probation.

"They don't even care if they lose their job because of the financial reward that they'd get from big-time criminals like Tan," Remulla said. "The risk is just too small, and this encourages infidelity in the custody of a prisoner." *With a report from AP*

Got a press release? . . .

From page A1

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This notice will run for the next 15 days. Beginning Oct. 16, 2002, our fax numbers at the editorial will be used exclusively by the editorial staff in the field.

Colosseum aglow . . .

From page A1

proposed law abolishing the death penalty.

Since an anti-capital punishment campaign began in 2000, The Colosseum has been lit with bright gold lights for two days every time anywhere in the world the death penalty is suspended or commuted or a nation abolishes capital punishment.

The campaign is jointly sponsored by the Rome government and the Sant' Egidio religious group.

Inaugurated in 80 AD, the ancient Roman stadium staged gladiator contests involving lions, elephants and bears and mock naval battles designed to prepare soldiers for battle. *Reuters*

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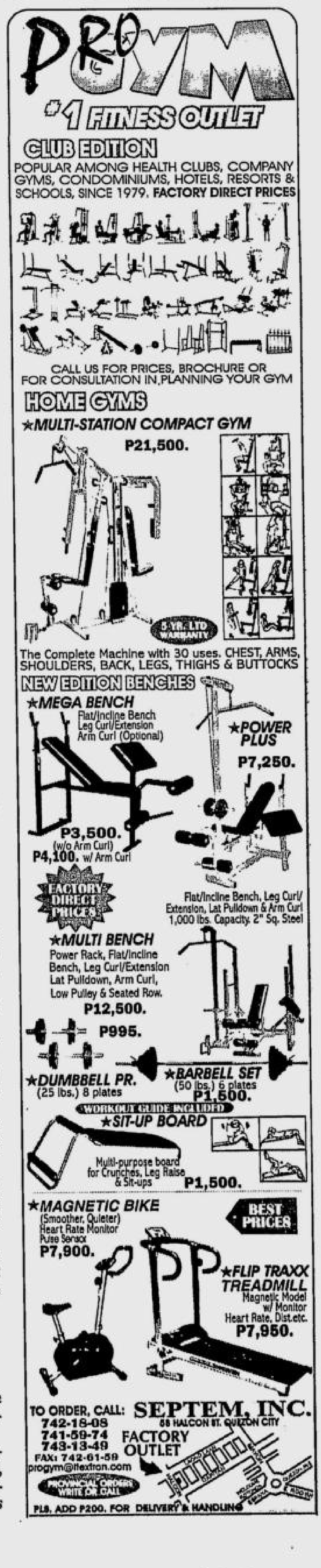

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JOB MARKET EXPO OPENS
INQUIRER chair Marixi R. Prieto (right) and president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (2nd from left) cut the ceremonial ribbon opening the three-day INQUIRER Job Market Employment Expo at the Glorietta Activity Center on Tuesday. Assisting them are (from left) INQUIRER classifieds and marketing services division head Donald L. Lim, VP for advertising Pepito R. Olarte, and SVP for sales and marketing Rene R. Reinoso. Over 100 leading corporations are participating in this annual event, which will run until tomorrow.

Acting Ombudsman faces stiff opposition from solon, lawyer

By Christine Avendano

ACTING Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio is facing opposition in his bid to be appointed permanently to his current position.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno and lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr. urged the Judicial Bar Council (JBC) last Monday not to nominate Gervacio when the council starts today to interview the 22 applicants to the position vacated by Aniano Desierto in August.

Gervacio, who took over as acting Ombudsman when Desierto retired, is among the aspirants.

In an opposition they filed with the JBC, Moreno and Francisco, who had filed an impeachment complaint against Desierto, said Gervacio doesn't deserve the nomination because "he is not a person of probity and lacks the virtues of integrity, honesty, incorruptibility and irreproachable conduct."

They told the JBC that Gervacio should be investigated for allegedly violating ethical standards set for public officials since 1997 as well for his extravagant lifestyle.

Track record

"This country cannot afford to have an ombudsman like Gervacio," Moreno said in a phone interview. "His track record speaks for itself."

In their 17-page sworn opposition, Moreno and Francisco cited three cases where Gervacio was seen to be "consorting and cavorting" with litigants in cases pending before his office when he was deputy ombudsman for Mindanao and overall deputy ombudsman.

Two of these cases saw Gervacio ruling in favor of the litigants but subsequently his rulings were overturned, they told the JBC.

The other case was filed by Francisco himself against Gervacio in April 2000 for violating the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Officials.

Francisco recounted that in May 2000 he and his client met Gervacio to discuss his client's case against Land Bank of the Philippines.

Francisco's client had filed a case against Landbank after discovering that its P200-million credit facility with the bank ballooned to P600 million through the use of certain falsified documents.

It's like driving a Ferrari [illegible] he Autobahn.

When the Internet started as a simple network of computers used mainly by scientists, researchers and academics, no one predicted it would turn into a new global medium. The World Wide Web, the most-often accessed part of the Internet, has sites that equal (sometimes, exceed) the broadcast media in terms of production values and visual style, while the contents rival that of found in print.

Plug-ins such as Flash, Shockwave, RealAudio, among others heighten the Internet experience. No wonder everyday, millions of people jump into the so-called Information Superhighway a.k.a the Infobahn, to access things like up-to-the-second news to episode guides of their favorite TV series, walkthroughs of their favorite computer games to more esoteric stuff like Alyssa Milano movie trailers, proof of alien life photos and Styx lyrics. With such a wealth of information available, it's not surprising that this virtual freeway will be jammed. Since, like its real life counterpart, the more users, the more congested it will be. Also, the more flash (pun intended), the heavier the website will be. Which means, if your hook-up to the Web isn't optimal, downloading the site on your PC can be as fun as watching paint dry. In other words, ordinary dial-up connections just don't cut it anymore.

Speed through the infobahn

This is where a PLDT myDSL connection comes in handy. Imagine waiting for 6 hours downloading that rare Pearl Jam audition MP3 using your dial-up, when your sister picks up the phone to use it. Unfortunately for you, murder is still a crime. But if you have myDSL, not only you can download MP3s in a breeze, you can also chat while doing so. All while your little sister is talking on the phone with her friend about her supposedly Josh Hartnett-looking crush. However, with the unlimited time and dedicated time you have online, your brother (or son) will have a difficult time going back to the real world after spending days and nights in virtual worlds like EverQuest or battle.net. W[illegible], you don't need to insta[illegible] em to get a dedicated c[illegible] t uses the copper wires[illegible] your telephone. DSL technolo[illegible] Subscriber Line) carries data [illegible] ency than voice or fax calls, [illegible] simultaneously be carried in one [illegible] sn't interfere with other telepho[illegible] Caller ID or call waiting. And [illegible] ble-based systems (essentially [illegible] work where the connection t[illegible] shared), it doesn't fall in perfo[illegible] more subscribers connect and [illegible] security problems arising from p[illegible] ffing.

You'll be hoo[illegible]

So if you have [illegible] myDSL connection, there's no stoppi[illegible] m hosting your own website. If you [illegible] ganization in school or the communi[illegible] n play your school's victory song [illegible] ming and video audio(skipping [illegible] so 90's). You can immortalize the Mr. Roboto dance number you did in your last reunion in Quicktime video, and upload it in your family's website for everybody's enjoyment. You can also put your library of self-composed MP3s and just hope somebody will download it.

More time to do other things

Since you can surf and call at the same time, you'll shave off hours and surely be spending more time on the Web, not because of the waiting, but because you'll be zipping to and fro inside the digital realm using multiple windows. You can discover more of those obscure websites (or host one using your PC!), as you lose yourself in cyberspace, since there's no time limit, no roadblocks, just a free, unhindered and high-velocity ride in the techie version of the Autobahn. So whatever your business in the Net, it's done in a snap. Which means, you can spend more time with your family and yourself. Ultimately, you'll be living a better, more enriched life, courtesy of PLDT myDSL.

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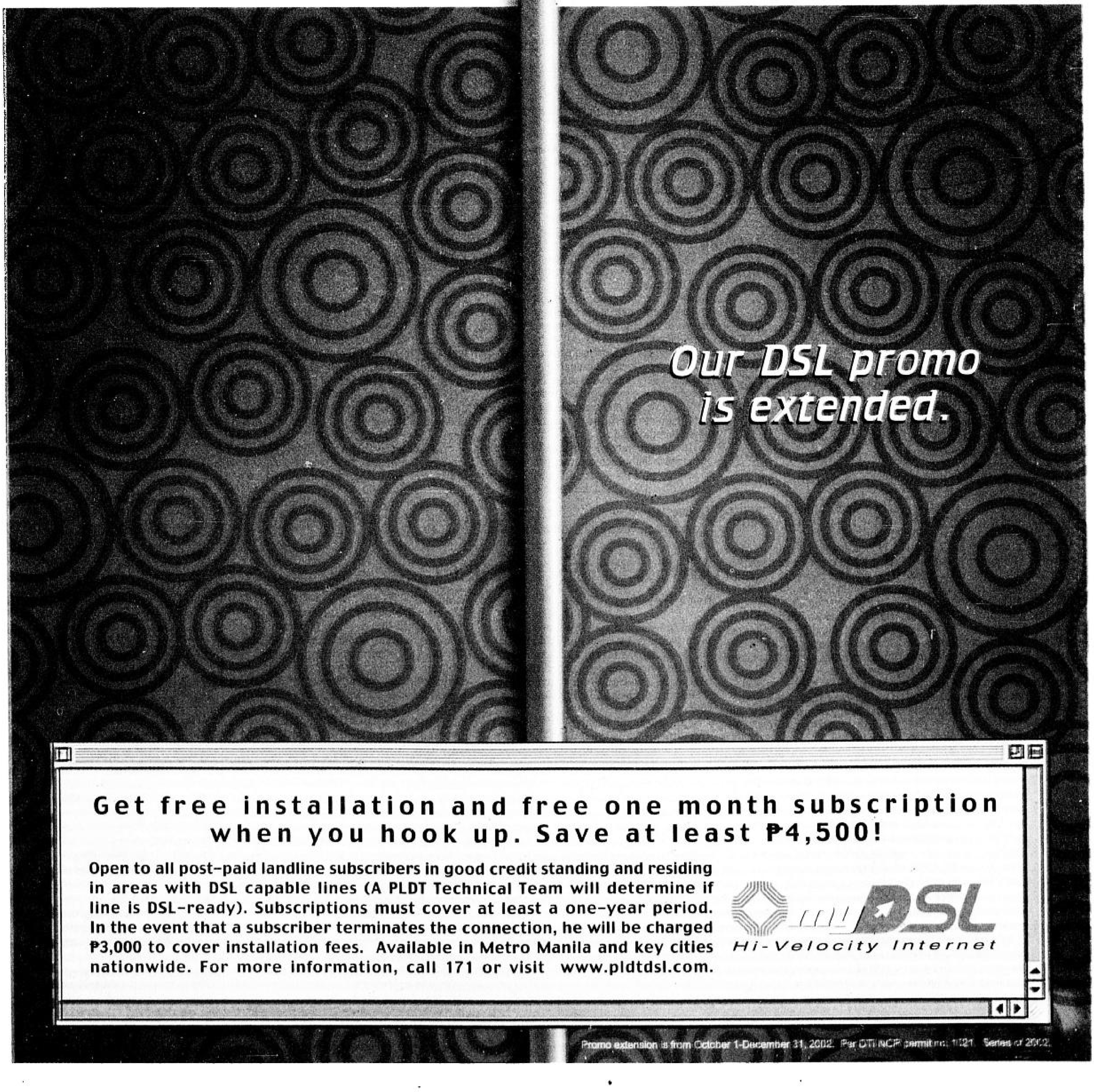
With that said, there is no reason for you and your family not to hook up with PLDT myDSL. PLDT's extended offer of free installation and free one-month subscription is too juicy to pass up. That's an easy P4,500 savings at least. All you have to do is be a PLDT post-paid landline subscriber living in a DSL-capable area (a PLDT Tech team will visit your home and determine if your line is DSL-ready). Definitely, it's the best time to connect to the country's premier high-velocity residential broadband internet service - PLDT myDSL. For more info, check out the details below.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Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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ASIAD BASKETBALL

RP guns for semis-assuring win vs Japan

GAMES TODAY
3 p.m.-China vs Chinese Taipei
5 p.m.-RP vs Japan

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—The Philippines will battle Japan today in the basketball quarterfinals, needing a win to virtually clinch a semifinal seat in the Asian Games here.

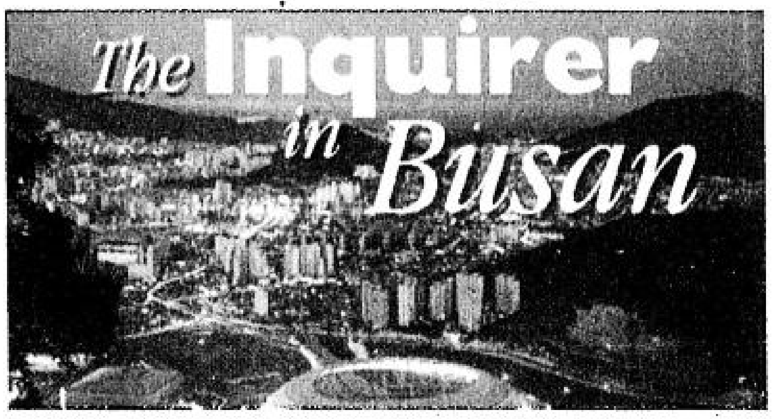
A victory will pit the Filipinos next against Chinese Taipei on Friday, an assignment as easy as one-plus-one-equals-two since the Philippines beat the same squad with ease during their tuneup matches in Manila some weeks back.

That's the scenario based on the format that says bracket winners face losers in second round pairings.

Chinese Taipei is up today against big brother China in a 3 p.m. encounter that is as insignificant as China hauling off the lion's share from the 420 gold medals at stake in the Games.

What will be significant is RP's game today since a win could position the Filipinos for an almost unexpected clash for the basketball gold.

RP GUNS/ A24



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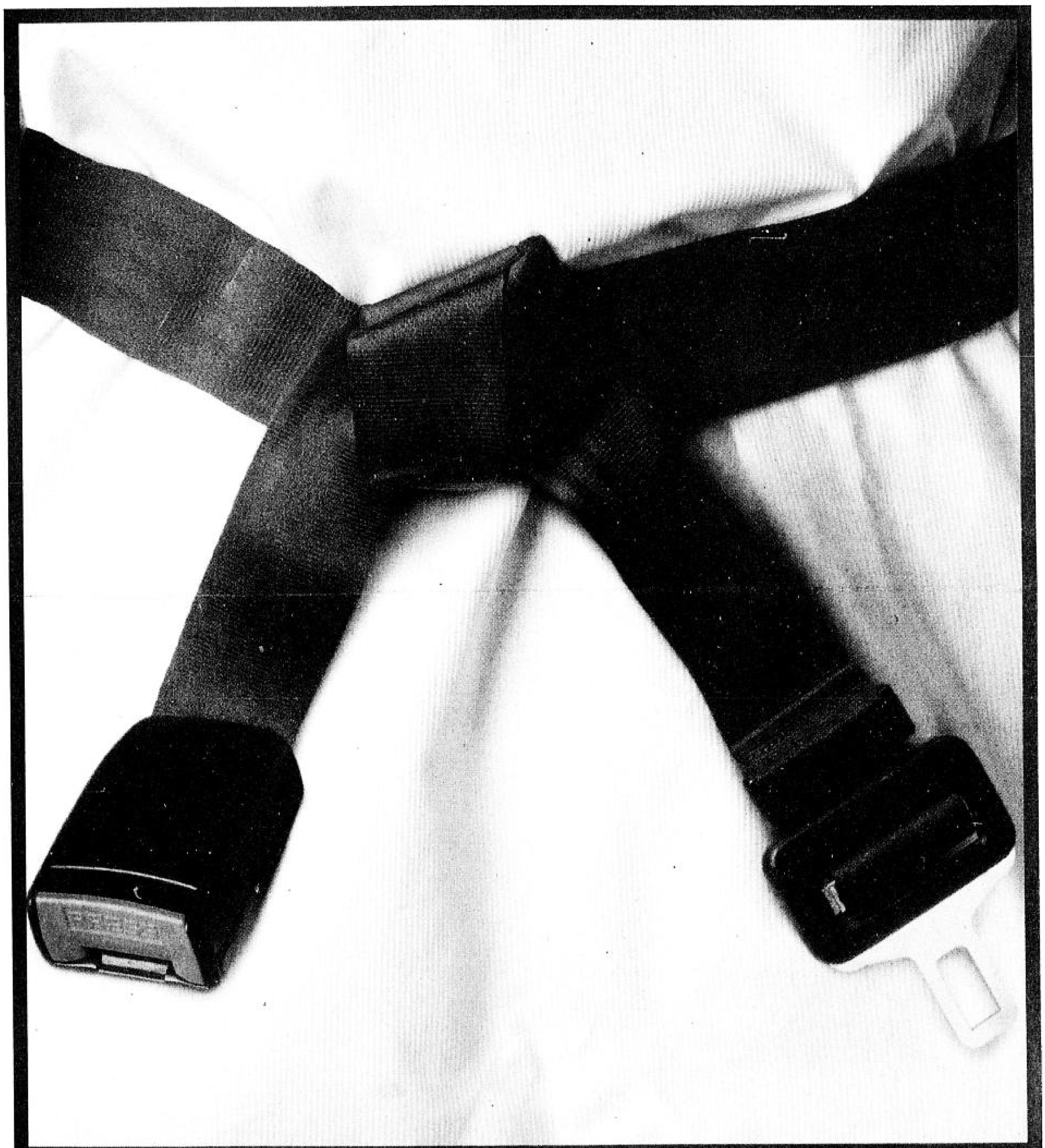

THE PHILIPPINE TAEKWONDO TEAM'S JOURNEY HAS BEGUN.
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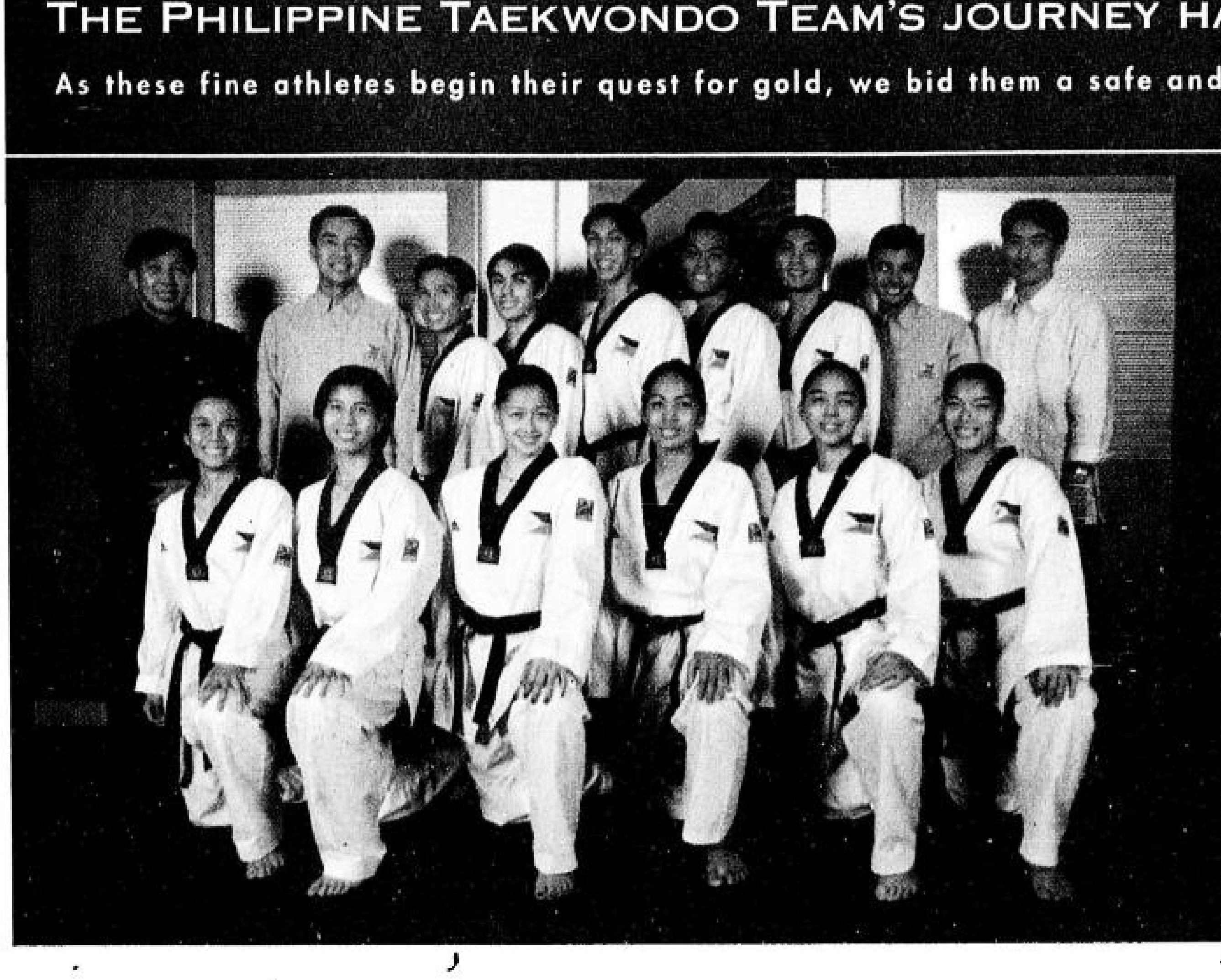


First row (L-R) - Dr. Noli Gabriel (Head of team), Jobet Morales (Team Coach), Roberto Cruz, JR Rivero, Donald Geisler, Dindo Simpao, Alexander Briones, Noel Veneracion (Team Coach), Mr. Kim Tae Hyung (Coach) **Second row (L-R)** - Eva Ditan, Dahleen Cordero, Veronica Dominguez, Sally Solis, Khalindi Tamayo, Margarita Bonifacio

Iverson finally breaks silence over arrest

By Rob Maaddi
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson wouldn't discuss his arrest, didn't explain why he skipped Larry Brown's Hall of Fame induction ceremony and refused to elaborate on his much-publicized comments regarding practice.

In his first interview since his arrest in July following a domestic dispute in which he was accused of threatening two men with a gun—all 14 charges were later dismissed or dropped—the Philadelphia 76ers' star guard had little new to say Monday.

Iverson again vowed to be "a leader" and said he looked forward to "shutting a whole lot of people up." He said he worked on his game and even lifted weights this summer. But he didn't say he had changed over the summer.

"My attitude has always been the same and it's still the same," Iverson said when asked his feelings on practice. "It's just that some of it got blown out of proportion. If I can have that interview, if I can take it back, I would. I was just letting out a lot of frustrations. I'm human just like you guys. It was a bad day for me and I said some things I meant and some things I didn't mean. The practice thing is something for you all to run with. I can control something like that."

Olajuwon's career on hold

TORONTO—Toronto Raptors center Hakeem Olajuwon continues to be bothered by a lower back injury and has been excused from training camp.

Olajuwon will remain on the team's active roster and a decision on his playing status will be made at a later time.

"I don't expect Hakeem to be ready to play in the forseeable future," said Raptors senior vice president and general manager Glen Grunwald.

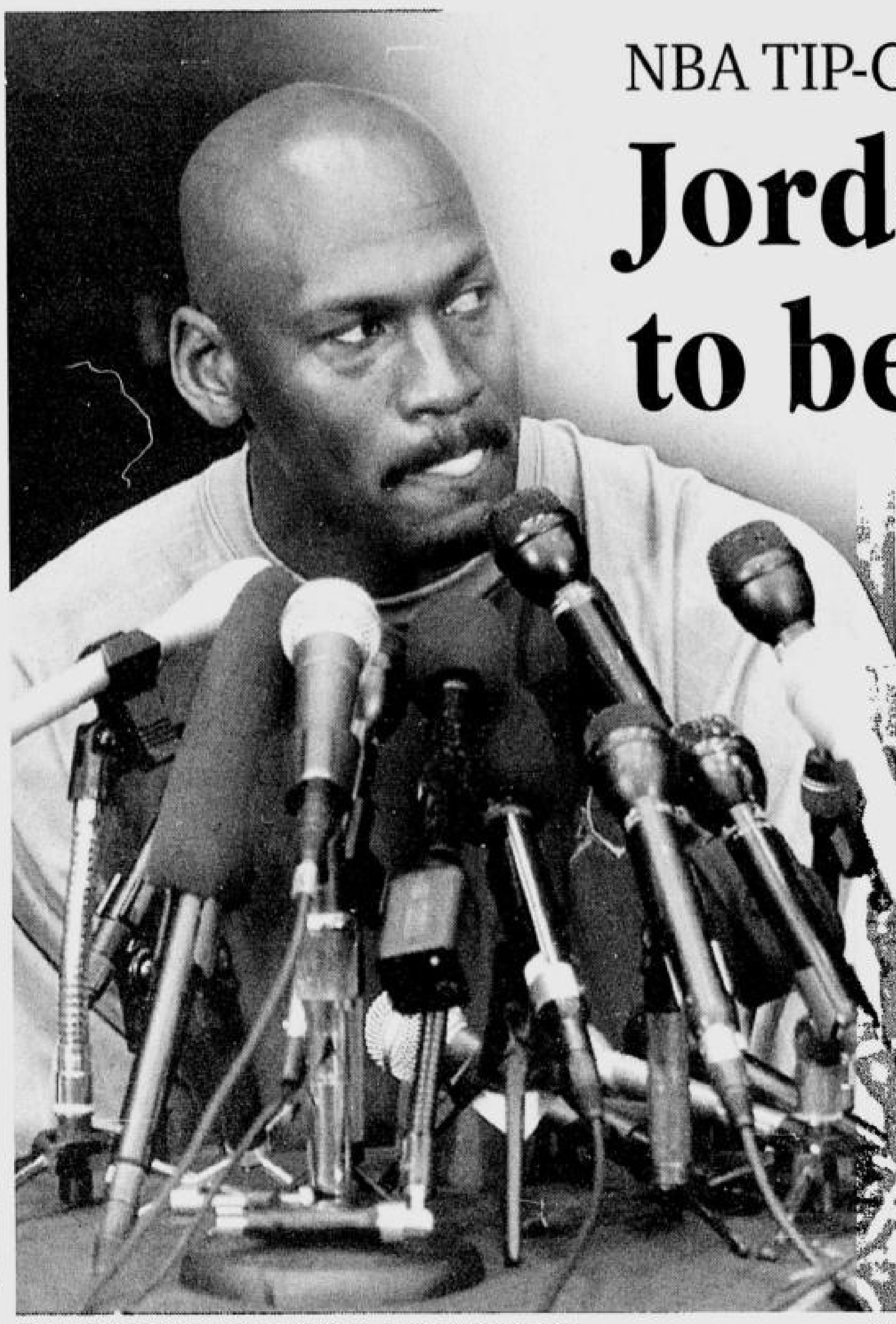
"He will remain in Houston while he considers his future options." The 39-year-old Olajuwon missed 21 games with a right quadriceps strain and an infected toe last season—his first with the Raptors after a brilliant 17-year career with the Houston Rockets. He averaged 7.1 points and 6.0 rebounds in 22.6 minutes for Toronto. *AFP*

NBA

28 Days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that 28 of the NBA's 29 teams had at least three players average in double-digits in scoring last season? Only the Atlanta Hawks had two.

NBA TIP-OFF

Jordan wants to be a starter



JORDAN is keeping an open mind about being the sixth man. AP

By Joseph White
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON—Michael Jordan would prefer to be on the floor at tipoff this season.

But he said Monday he'll keep an "open mind" about possibly being a backup for a Washington Wizards team that missed the playoffs last season.

Speaking for the first time since last week's announcement that he would play this year, Jordan said he has overhauled his workout regimen, and he probably won't play any exhibition games. The Wizards open training camp Tuesday in Wilmington, North Carolina.

During the summer, Jordan spoke with coach Doug Collins about the possibility of coming off the bench to preserve his knees.

"For the most part I go in with the idea that I want to play minutes, important minutes," he said. "If Doug feels, after seeing me play and seeing how the development of our team is, that I can possibly support the team better coming off the bench, I will entertain that thought.

"Then again," he added, "if I'm playing well enough to start, hopefully I can get to that point, too."

Jordan said he wasn't sure he would play this season until about three weeks ago because of new pain in his surgically repaired right knee. Doctors said Jordan's joints were out of alignment and fitted him with shoe inserts.

Jordan had to resign as the Wizards president of basketball operations when he returned as a player, but he still essentially runs the team.

"I think the players understand who I am, what I do, my influences, things of that nature," Jordan said. "We have a year of experience dealing with that. I don't think I have to change myself."

Jordan will turn 40 in February. Asked if this would be his last year, he said: "I never want to say 'never' again. When I do say it, I'm going to say it 100 percent, not 99.9 percent. But I'm focusing on this year."

Bateer traded

DENVER—Chinese center Menk Bateer is heading to the Detroit Pistons in a trade that will send forward Rodney White to the Denver Nuggets.

Bateer, forward Don Reid and a draft pick will be going to Detroit for White, a Nuggets official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity. *AP*

MBA stars Compton, Dacia to play in PBL Cup

By Dennis U. Eroa

ALEX Compton and Bruce Dacia, both superstars in the defunct MBA, will strut their wares in the coming PBL Challenge Cup slated on November.

The charismatic Compton will see action for LBC-Batangas, which will play as a guest team, same with RFM and Cebuana-Lhuillier.

"It's a go for LBC, RFM and Lhuillier," said Dioceldo Sy, chair of the PBL Board. "With the return of Welcoat, I expect a blockbuster conference."

The 5-foot-11 Compton, known for his outside shooting, will play for the Blades. Batangas also picked St. Benilde's Al Magpayo, Letran's Harold Sta. Cruz, SSC's Paul Reguerra and Nicole Uy and PCU's Leo Gaspi in yesterday's PBL draft.

Dacia, formerly of Cebu/Lhuillier and the San Juan Knights, fortifies ITSCI-La Salle which is bringing the core of its bemedalled UAAP team in the coming conference.

With Mike Cortez, Carlo Sharma and MBA stars Dino Aldeguer and Reynell Hugnatan, the Archers will be hard to beat.

ITSCI assistant mentor Joshua Villapando picked Arthur Cummings and Mark Moreno in the draft.

Easily, John-O, newly-crowned PBL-CBF titleholder, is installed as early favorite to win the Challenge Cup. Ably-supported by owner and Sen. John Osmena and team manager Carlos Sario, John-O boasts of Ranidel de Ocampo, Celino Cruz, Archen Cayabyab, Ricky Calimag, Bong Salvador, Edrick Ferrer and Mark Macapagal.

Sario also picked 6-foot-7 Lawrence Bonus of St. Francis College, Letran's Ren Syhongpan and Mario Basco of Roosevelt College in the draft.

Former MBA MVP Eddie Laure will don the colors of comebacking Welcoat. Coach Leo Austria also signed up Paul Artadi, Ronald Tubid, Ariel Capus and Cali Orfrecio and snared FEU center Mark Isip and playmaker Dennis Miranda in the draft.

Also picked by Welcoat were Jemal Vizcarra and Erwin Sta. Maria.

Asiad cagers make a comeback during PBA All-Filipino meet

By June Navarro

THE MUCH-AWAITED return of the PBA's brightest stars after donning the national colors in the Asian Games will definitely be the talk of the town when the PBA opens its third and final conference on Oct. 20 at the Araneta Coliseum..

Dubbed as the Selecta-All Filipino Cup, the most prestigious tournament of the year features a two-game bill marking the comeback of national players to their respective mother teams.

BARRIOS

Fil-Am star Eric Menk will finally wear the Barangay Ginebra jersey after sharing his expertise to the national team since the beginning of the season as the Kings clash against the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs in the opener.

The Hotdogs, who ruled the Governors Cup in the first conference, flash a more versatile image as they welcome nationals Noy Castillo, Boyet Fernandez and Andy Seigle back into their arms.

RP standouts Olsen Racela, Danny Ildefonso and Dondon Hontiveros will provide defending champion San Miguel Beer added dexterity in terms of manpower when the Beermen take on Federal Express, who groomed itself by acquiring the high-flying Vergel Meneses during the second conference.

"That should be a treat for PBA fans who have waited for a long time to see our national players return to their PBA teams, especially Eric Menk who has yet to see action for Ginebra as well as Dondon Hontiveros for the San Miguel Beermen since they were acquired from defunct Tanduay," said acting PBA commissioner and executive director Sonny Barrios.

Hingis upset

MOSCOW—Russia's Nadia Petrova produced a major upset Monday, eliminating fifth-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland in straight sets in the first round of the US$2,119 million Kremlin Cup tennis tournament.

The only men's singles match of the day also saw a top player upset, with Nicolas Escude of France knocking out third-seeded Albert Costa of Spain 7-5, 3-6, 6-1. *AP*

Senate golf reunion, Jaycee tourney slated

THE THIRD leg of the four-tournament Manila Jaycee Senate Golf Reunion will be played Friday, Oct. 4 at the Mimosa golf and country club.

The event win be held side by side with the Philippine Jaycee Senate convention golf tournament where participants in the reunion golf tournament will also be competing in the convention event.

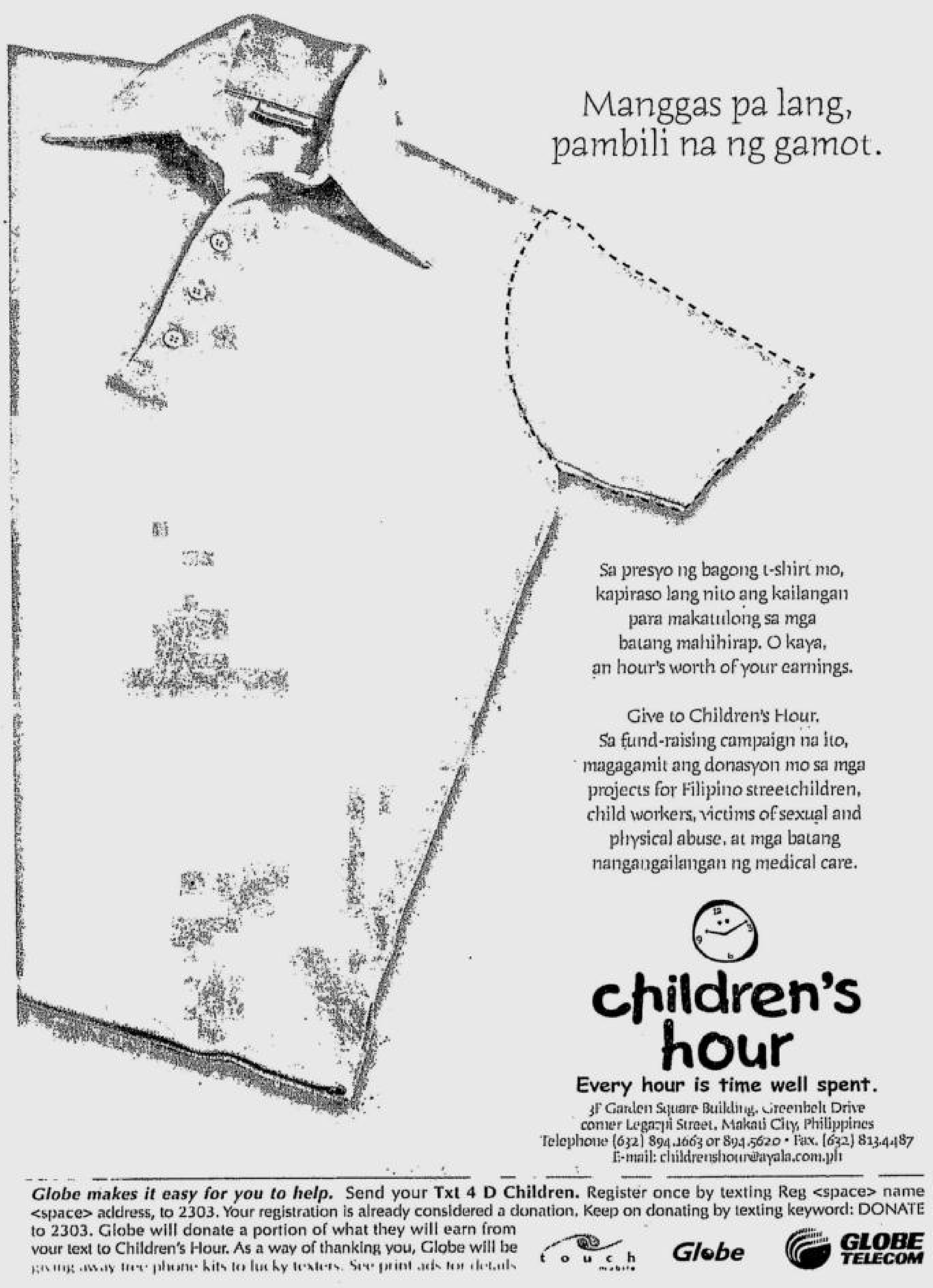
Manila Jaycee Senate President Pros Madamba said that more than 50 Jaycee senators are expected to take part in the tournament sponsored by PLDT Business Solutions and supported by CATS Motors, Philippine Sports Commission, Hapee Toothpaste and Torres Brandy and Wines.

Hole sponsors are Ramon Roco Insurance, Uni-Form Packing and Trading, Alexander Forbes Phils., Magnificat, Cargo-Aire Freight Forwarders, Mabey and Johnson Ltd, Gino Baltao, Magic Fry cooking oil, JBLS Painters, Gema Coco Foods Corp., Fernando M. Vitug II Construction, Tactical Mix Communication Services and Times Trading.

Awarding for the twin events will be at the Casino Filipino ballroom. Up for grabs are trophies for an overall champion, champions and runners-up in Class A, B and C and Guest Division.

In the 2nd leg played at Sta. Elena recently, Mike Magpayo blazed with 43 points in the Stableford scoring system to capture overall honors. Edmond Lee came up with 34 points to rule Class A while Milo Ramirez scored 36 to top Class B. The Class C crown went to Boyet Vega after carding 41.

Brian Fletcher collected 46 points to capture the Guest Division crown. The second placers were Eddie Marquez in Class A with 33, Teddy Jaresco in Class B with 37 and Joeben Santos in Class C also with 37.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SHOULDER THROW
Kuwait's Ghannam Aldikan (top) is lifted with a shoulder throw by the Philippine's John Baylon during their men's under 81-kilogram judo preliminary match yesterday. Baylon defeated Aldikan to advance to the next round. REUTERS

The Inquirer in Busan

RP ROUNDUP

Rowers barge into finals

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—Rowing delivered anew. No mail from the rest.

That was how it was yesterday on the second full day of action for the 218-person Philippine Team to the 14th Asian Games here.

Benjamin Tolentino and two teammates positioned themselves into bright medal prospects but their compatriots from eight other disciplines faltered one after the other.

Tolentino, the 29-year-old, 6-foot-1 Sydney Olympian, and fellow rowers Alvin Amposta and Nestor Cordova will join Jose Rodriguez, idle yesterday, into today's precious-as-gold bid for medal ambush at the Nakdong River course.

Two US-based swimmers reached the finals and lost, but many others from elsewhere never went beyond first base, with the Blu Girls losing in another shameful shutout (9-0) to Japan after a 5-0 defeat on Monday.

Miguel Molina and Jenny Guerrero swam to the finals of the 200-m freestyle and 100-m breaststroke, respectively.

But even as they lost, their feat was already considered a big splash for the country considering the tough nature of competition.

Molina finished fifth at 1:52.41 and Guerrero ended up last at 1:14.30.

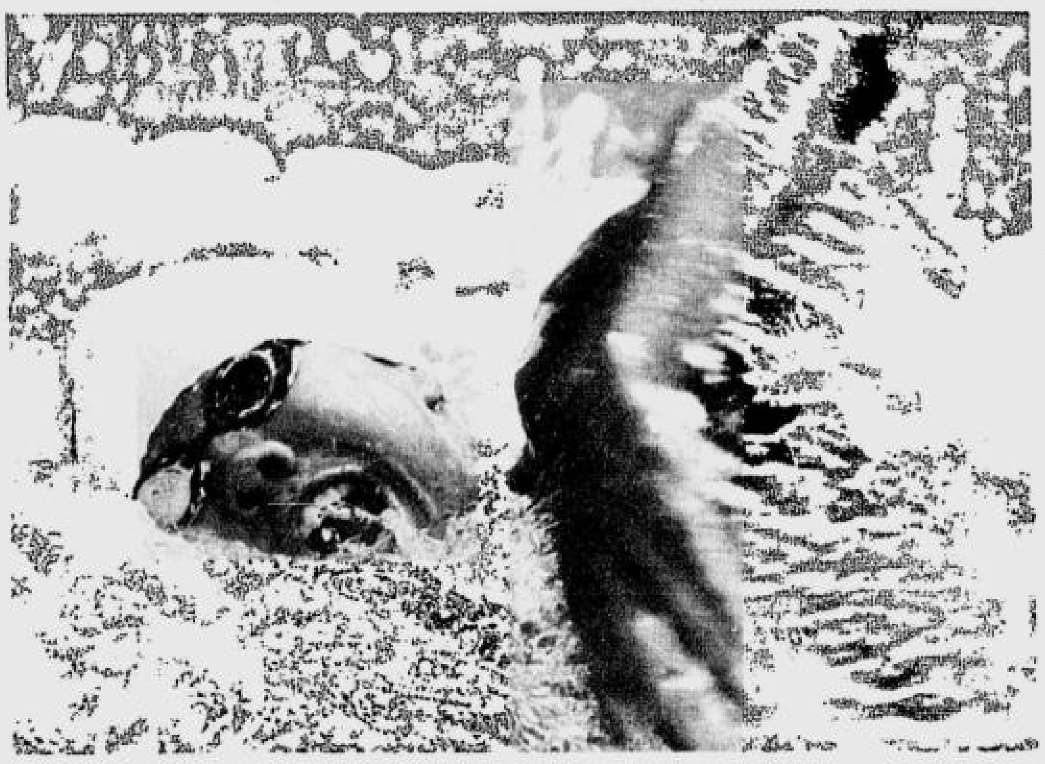
Fencing's Walbert Mendoza knocked out Saudi Arabia's Almawald Majed, 15-12,in the 1/8 elimination, only to lose to South Korean Lee Seung Won, 15-10, in the quarters.

Mendoza's teammates Edmond Velez, Lorena Ann San Diego and Maria Lorella Bauzon also bowed out like squash bet Ricky Espinosa and gymnast Roel Ramirez, who played hurting.

Ramirez was 31st in the pommel horse and 36th in the parallel bars, his knee injury still hurting after he slipped while taking a shower some weeks back.

The country suffered a set-

ROWERS/ A24



Miguel Molina of the Philippines competes in the 200-meter freestyle heat yesterday. Molina clocked a time of one minute 53.51 seconds and qualified in the final. REUTERS

Bowling lanes kept in secrecy-Paeng

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea-You know the classic film "The Secret of Santa Quiteria" starring the late Anthony Quinn as the loveable Bombolini?

Well, that comes to mind in lieu of the fact the bowling lanes to be used in the 14th Asian Games are being kept in secrecy by the hosts two days before actual competitions begin.

"We are bowling blind right now," said Paeng Nepomuceno. "We are playing some lanes but we really don't know the actual conditions of the lanes to be used during the Games."

It's become almost a war just like that Anthony Quinn-starrer film, where the real secret of Santa Quiteria was a horde of wine stored underground and hidden from view of the Nazi forces by Italian partisans during World War II.

Bombolini and his group guard the wine with their lives.

Seemingly, that is also the case in the battle of the bowling lanes here.

"In my case, I have practiced only once at the supposed bowling lanes to be used here," said Nepomuceno. "So far, so good. Except that the actual conditions of the lanes to be used have not been really divulged to us."

NEPOMUCENO

Bowling starts tomorrow already and Nepomuceno and his 11 teammates are cramming for practice, using every available opportunity to get the real feel of the lanes.

"I can't really say if the lanes are fast or not," said Nepomuceno. "When they will show us the real battlefield, I have no idea."

Nepomuceno, who is in the Guinness Book of World Records for being the only person to win four World Cup titles in three decades since he first won in 1974 in the Tehran World Cup, said his suspect wrist is "coming out fine."

The lefty Hall of Famer of international bowling said he is not yet pushing it hard to avoid unnecessary stress leading up to tomorrow's start of bowling competitions.

The 12-person team is under an American coach named Purvis Granger.

"If we win one, I'll be proud of them already," said bowling official Steve Hontiveros. "This is the Asian Games, where some of the world's best are entered. And remember this, the hosts will do everything to sweep the gold medals."

Nepomuceno's teammates are Jay Rowen Bautista, Constantine King, Leonardo Rey Jr., Engelberto Rivera, Christian Jan Suarez, Josephine Canare, Liza Clutario, Ma. Liza del Rosario, Irene Garcia-Benitez, Kathlyn Ann Lopez and Ma. Cecilia Yap.

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AWESOME

Taulava scales world's tallest basketeer in smashing fashion during the Asi Act Show

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—You don't tell Asi Taulava who is King of the Hill here. He is.

Don't even tell him he is not Clown of the Hill. He is, too.

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

In his matchup against North Korean Ri Myong-hun on Monday, Taulava emerged virtually unscathed. If it were a scratching match, Ri would have had scratches all over his body.

Taulava totally outplayed Ri during the RP-North Korea basketball game on Monday, which was won with surprising ease by the Filipinos, 89-63.

It was a stunning victory, history-wise. Before Monday's match, all other games between both countries were closely-fought- and ruggedly-fought, too. Robert Jaworski getting kicked by a North Korean bruiser during the 1974 Asian Games in Tehran has become part of Asiad basketball lore.

There were some tense moments during Monday's game but, overall, it was generally a peaceful match.

After the game, the Filipinos crossed boundaries and went to the North Korean side to shake hands with their beaten foes.

Both sides bowed to the crowd afterward, with the North Koreans receiving the loudest applause from a crowd that packed the 5,000-seat Geomjeong Stadium to its rafters.

Many Filipinos working here as computer technicians, entertainers and factory employees had a day-off and joined the RP cheering squad, scores of athletes and Filipino officials during and after the game.

And they loved every minute of the Ri & Asi Show. But Asi dominated Ri so well it could well be renamed the Asi Act Show.

Taulava's success against Ri was both awesome and amusing. Why, because his opponent is not only the tallest athlete in the 14th Asian Games but also the world's tallest person.

At 7-foot-9, Ri is one foot taller than the 6-foot-9 Taulava.

If Ri is the center of attraction wherever he goes in this city by the sea of four million, Taulava counters that honor with his being the No. 1 center of the Philippine basketball team. And a mean center at that.

In Monday's game, Taulava, who turned 29 last March 2, matched Ri's point production of 13 points.

But 12 of Taulava's 13 points were scored with some creativity as they were either jumpers, reverse shots or gracefully executed give-and-go plays.

In contrast, 7 of Ri's 13 points were from the free throw line, where he dished out a near-flawless touch as he missed just once in 8 tries.

But Ri's height advantage could only earn him 6 points from the field on 3-of-6 shooting. He had the game's lone dunk, though. It came in the third quarter when North Korea was behind by 20 points, 62-42, and the game virtually in the bag for the Filipinos.

It was that dunk that woke up the clown side of Taulava.

Twice Taulava missed two dunks against Ri. But he did them with a tinge of joke. When he couldn't stuff both, he looked up to Ri both times with eyeballs interchanging from rolling to fixed. Asi was Dolphy personified.

"I was looking up to the world's tallest person, you know, and it was really fun," Taulava said later, smiling.

It wasn't fun to Ri as Taulava outrebounded the North Korean by a mile, 15-9.

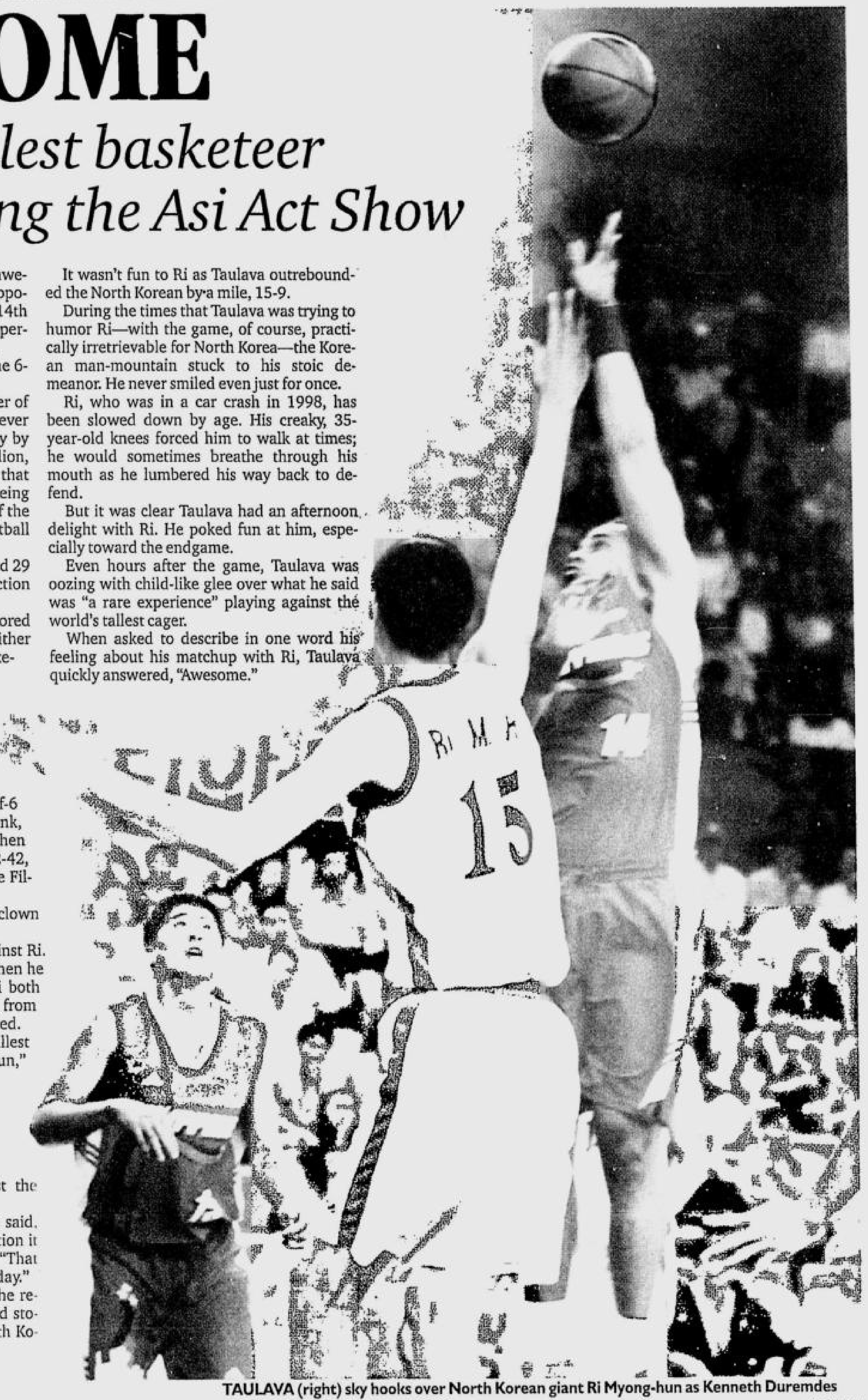
During the times that Taulava was trying to humor Ri—with the game, of course, practically irretrievable for North Korea—the Korean man-mountain stuck to his stoic demeanor. He never smiled even just for once.

Ri, who was in a car crash in 1998, has been slowed down by age. His creaky, 35-year-old knees forced him to walk at times; he would sometimes breathe through his mouth as he lumbered his way back to defend.

But it was clear Taulava had an afternoon delight with Ri. He poked fun at him, especially toward the endgame.

Even hours after the game, Taulava was oozing with child-like glee over what he said was "a rare experience" playing against the world's tallest cager.

When asked to describe in one word his feeling about his matchup with Ri, Taulava quickly answered, "Awesome."



TAULAVA (right) sky hooks over North Korean giant Ri Myong-hun as Kenneth Duremdes watches. The Filipinos won, 89-63.

JESS YUSON

RP guns for semis-assuring . . .

From page A21

With a win today plus the one over Taipei on Friday, the only remaining obstacle to a dream-come-true gold medal clash between the Philippines and defending champion China would be South Korea.

But that's too far a prospect to think at this stage, according to head coach Jong Uichico.

Despite impressive wins over the United Arab Emirates on Saturday and North Korea on Monday for an unbeaten 2-0 card, Uichico downplayed his boys' chances against the Japanese in the 5 p.m. encounter.

"I would say it's an even match," he said, dismissing South Korea's 79-62 demolition it inflicted on Japan Monday evening. "That was not the real Japan that played Monday."

He said Japan's defeat was mainly the result of one Japanese player (see related story) not seeing action in the Japan-South Korea game.

It's business as usual.

Duremdes-like Japanese dribbler worrying Uichico

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—A Japanese player who has the explosive style of Kenneth Duremdes will most likely create trouble today for the Philippine quintet if recalled to active duty by Japan.

Basketball

The Philippine-Japan tussle is set at 5 p.m., with the Filipinos advancing to within a game to the semifinals should they play true to form and beat the Japanese.

"He plays like Kenneth (Duremdes)," said head coach Jong Uichico of the Japanese player. "If he will play tomorrow (today), we have a problem."

The player is Takehiko Orimo, Japan's scoring machine who was ill and didn't play when South Korea manhandled Japan, 79-62, on Monday.

"That 17-point winning margin would not have happened if Orimo were around," said Uichico. "He can score from 10 to 15, maybe more, in a game."

Despite being used sparingly on Sunday, Orimo scored 15 points when Japan eliminated Mongolia, 125-75.

Allan Caidic, one of Uichico's four assistants, knows Orimo well.

"He is like a twin of Kenneth, playing stylewise," said Caidic, who played against Orimo in his last of four Asiad stints in Bangkok in 1998.

The veteran Orimo was voted Most Valuable Player this year in the Japan Basketball League.

When they met last in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad, Japan beat the Philippines in the battle for the bronze medal.

But four years before that in the Beijing Asiad, the Philippines, then coached by Robert Jaworski, defeated Japan twice en route to pocketing the silver after losing to China in the finals.

They didn't meet in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad where the Philippines struggled past Kazakhstan to salvage the bronze medal.

"We need to start strong against Japan," said Caidic, who was a part of the 1986 Asiad bronze medal-winning team when the country was last represented by an All-amateur squad. "Focus and intensity should be there at all times because Japan will play all out to avoid elimination."

Three more Japanese players were singled out by Caidic as potential trouble-makers for the Filipinos-Maikeru Takahashi, center Satoru Furuta and Takehiru Satsumasa. They totaled 26 points against South Korea on Monday.

Uichico held a workout yesterday to design a play against Orimo and the other three Japanese.

Rowers barge into finals

From page A23

back in snooker, a sport not really of Filipino liking unlike the pocket billiards where Bata Reyes and Django Bustamante have each earned a niche for themselves in the world stage.

Reyes could start to inject life into the Philippine campaign today as he debuts in the 8-ball singles, with Bustamante set to see action not until Oct. 6.

A big blow was absorbed by judoka John Baylon, whose dream for a first ever Asiad medal ended in tatters after failing to hurdle his second round opponent, Erkin Ibraginmov from Kyrghyztan.

Although he rebounded in the repechage by beating his Qatari opponent, Baylon lost to Mongolia's Nyamkhuu Damdinsuren via a leg pull for a sad farewell to a medal-less Asiad stint that began in 1990.

Baylon's best showing was seventh in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad. His teammates Karen Ann Solomon and Sidney Schwarzkopf also absorbed similar fates.

Still, Cito Dayrit, the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, praised the athletes, both still in contention and not.

"I admire our athletes," he said. "They gave it their best shot in all events amid strong opposition."

The Olympic boss had predicted the country to win from five to 10 gold medals in contrast to the Philippines' lone gold medal in 1998 in Bangkok through Gandy Valle and Romeo Villanueva.

Aside from Bata Reyes' expected successful debut today, also a source of anticipated joy is the Philippine quintet's match against Japan at 5 p.m.

The Filipino cagers, scoring a pair of inspiring victories over the United Arab Emirates and North Korea, are favored over the Japanese despite coach Jong Uichico's contrary pronouncements.

And should Tolentino & Co. proceed to produce today the unexpected medals in rowing, the country may yet achieve the dawning of a new era in Philippine sports.

By way of lending robust support to the rowers, Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, has cancelled a previous plan and will instead watch the rowing finals.

"We have to be by the side of our rowers," said Buhain, the country's sports financial czar. "History may yet be scored today."

2002 Busan Asian Games

DREAM 4 GOLD

Police probes plot

BUSAN, South Korea--North Korea won an emotional first gold medal at the Asian Games Tuesday as police revealed they were investigating reports of a terror plot targeting the Stalinist state's delegation.

Women's weightlifter Ri Song-Hui broke one world record and equalled another on her way to the North's first gold of the Asiad, with fans from South Korea and a North Korean cheering squad roaring her on.

The 23-year-old then shed tears of joy when North Korea's national anthem rang out at the victory ceremony, only the third time the anthem has been heard in the South.

"I was touched to hear the cheers of our people," said Ri after her victory in the 53kg event. "Today showed to me that we (North and South) share the same language and the same breath. I now realise the power of our nation.

"This win gives glory to the North, its people and (President) Kim Jong-il. I do not know how to express my feeling of euphoria." Ri, a silver medallist at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, set a new world record for the snatch in the event, lifting 102.5kg on her way to victory.

Athletes from North Korea are taking part in the Asian Games in a further example of warming ties between Pyongyang and Seoul.

But their participation has sparked a security alert in Busan, with police revealing Tuesday they were investigating reports of a possible terrorist threat against North Korea's athletes and officials.

***

Busan or Pusan?

BUSAN, South Korea—Want information about the Busan Asian Games? Check www.busanasiangames.org or www.pusanasiad.org.

Confusion over the name of South Korea's second-largest city, spelled Pusan for decades, remains after the nation's abrupt change in rules for English spelling last year. The change made it Busan.

Following the Asian Games, the city will serve as host to the 8th Busan Far East and South Pacific Games for the disabled later this month and the 7th Pusan International Film Festival in November.

"Sometimes I get questions like 'How far is Busan from Pusan?'" said Steve Tang, special adviser at Busan City for international investment affairs.

"What can we do? It's the central government's decision," Tang said.

DREAM
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Ri

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—I remember Jim Murray, the late great sports columnist of the Los Angeles Times, each time I see Ri Myong-hun. Murray is an idol from way back, who passed away months before the 1998 Asian Games.

I remembered him again on Monday, when Ri strutted his basketball wares during the RP-North Korea basketball game. Even as the Filipinos won that one in another business-as-usual style, my attention would involuntary drift away from that joy and bring me to Ri.

Tall men always fascinated me.

In one column, Murray wrote about 7-footers of the past who did not play basketball and therefore not become millionaires.

I guess Murray never got to see Ri, the 7-foot-9 cager from North Korea, who continues to wow crowds here wherever he goes. Even when he is merely seated watching a basketball game, spectators never tire gawking at him as though he is not from this planet.

Maybe, Murray, when he was still around, never heard about Ri being considered at one time to play in the NBA. For had he known about it, he would have written a gem of a column about the walking mountain.

Listen to Jim Murray on 7-footers in a 1996 column:

"You know, it was not too long ago—I'm old enough to remember—when, if you were 7 feet tall, the best you could do with your life was join circus. Or get a fur hat and open cab doors for rich folk outside a New York hotel. Now you get $17 million a year and all the Rolls Royces you need. People open cab doors for you."

He was referring of course then to Shaquille O'Neal, the 7-foot-2 star of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Now is Ri getting that much in North Korea.

You know the answer.

If Murray were around, he would have brought Ri to the circus—fur hat and all.

RP SKED

Oct. 2, 2002
(Korea time, 1 hr ahead of RP time)

SWIMMING

10 a.m.—H. Ong, women's 100m freestyle (heats); M. Molina, 200m breaststroke (heats); L. Dacanay, women's 100m butterfly (heats); M. Mendoza, C. Piccio, 400m freestyle (heats)

BASKETBALL

5 p.m.—Philippines vs Japan

BILLIARDS

10 a.m.—Snooker doubles, 3rd-4th, finals (depending on results of B. Guevarra, M. Manalo);

1 p.m.—E. Reyes, L. V. Corteza, 8-ball pool singles R. Grandea, partle libre singles;

4 p.m.—B. Guevarra, J. Ortega vs Thailand, snooker team;

7 p.m.—8-ball pool singles, partie libre singles, pre-quarterfinal (depending on results of E. Reyes, L.V. Corteza, R. Grandea in earlier rounds)

BOXING

2 p.m.—H. Tanamor vs KS. Aung, Myanmar (48kg, first round); R. Brin vs B. Bayanjargal, Mongolia (63.5 kg, first round)

CYCLING

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.—M. Bitbit, 80-100km individual road race (finals)

FENCING

10 a.m.—R. Canias Jr., R. Endriano, E. Segui, foil team (preliminary); A. Bernal, R. Gomez, A. Victorino, epee team (preliminary);

6 p.m.—Foil team (finals);

7:30 p.m.—Epee team (finals)

GYMNASTICS

3 to 8:05 p.m.—C. De Guzman, D. Espiritu, vault, uneven bars, beam, floor exercises (individual qualifying competition)

ROWING

10 a.m.—B. Tolentino Jr., single sculls (classification, finals depending on results in earlier rounds); J. Rodriguez, lightweight single sculls (finals)

SHOOTING

9 to 10:15 a.m.—RJ. Luis, women's 10 air rifle;

9:30 a.m.—J. Dionisio, E. Ange, J. Recto, trap, 75 targets (first day); G. Corral, women's trap, 75 targets;

11 a.m. to 12:45—E. Concepcion, 10m air rifle; 1 p.m.—10m air rifle (finals);

2 p.m.—Women's 10m air rifle (finals);

4 p.m.—Women's trap finals, 25 targets

SQUASH

10:30 a.m. to 12 noon—R. Espinola (quarterfinals, if Espinola beats HK's F. Khan in second round)

WEIGHTLIFING

3 to 5:40 p.m.—C. Atilano, 58 kg (finals)

WRESTLING

10 a.m. to 12 noon—C. Villanueva, 48kg women's freestyle (preliminary, first to third rounds)

GOLF GOLD PROSPECTS

We are optimistic–Feliciano

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Suddenly, it appears the country's lady golfers will have as much chances to win like their male counterparts in the 14th Asian Games here.

"We have scouted the opposition and we feel we should do well," said Rod Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines. "We are optimistic about our chances."

The women's team will only contend with five countries for the gold medal in the four-day golfest, a development that should augur well in the country's bid to score victories in golf.

Golf

The men's team is as armed as the hosts since the four-man team maximized a recent trip here to study every nook and cranny of the Asiad Country Club.

Admiral Louie Fernandez led that trip some three weeks ago in the company of Angelo Que, Juvic Pagunsan, Jerome Delariarte, Marlon Dizon and alternate Cookie La'O.

But La'O suddenly announced his intention to turn pro upon the team's return to Manila.

"Our course familiarity trip was an investment of time more than money and it should produce dividends for the country," said Fernandez, the NGAP vice president.

Team captain Benny Gopez is planing in today in time for tomorrow's first round action.

Also already here is Alice Andrada, captain of the ladies team composed of Heidi Chua, Carmelette Villaroman and US-based Ria Quiazon.

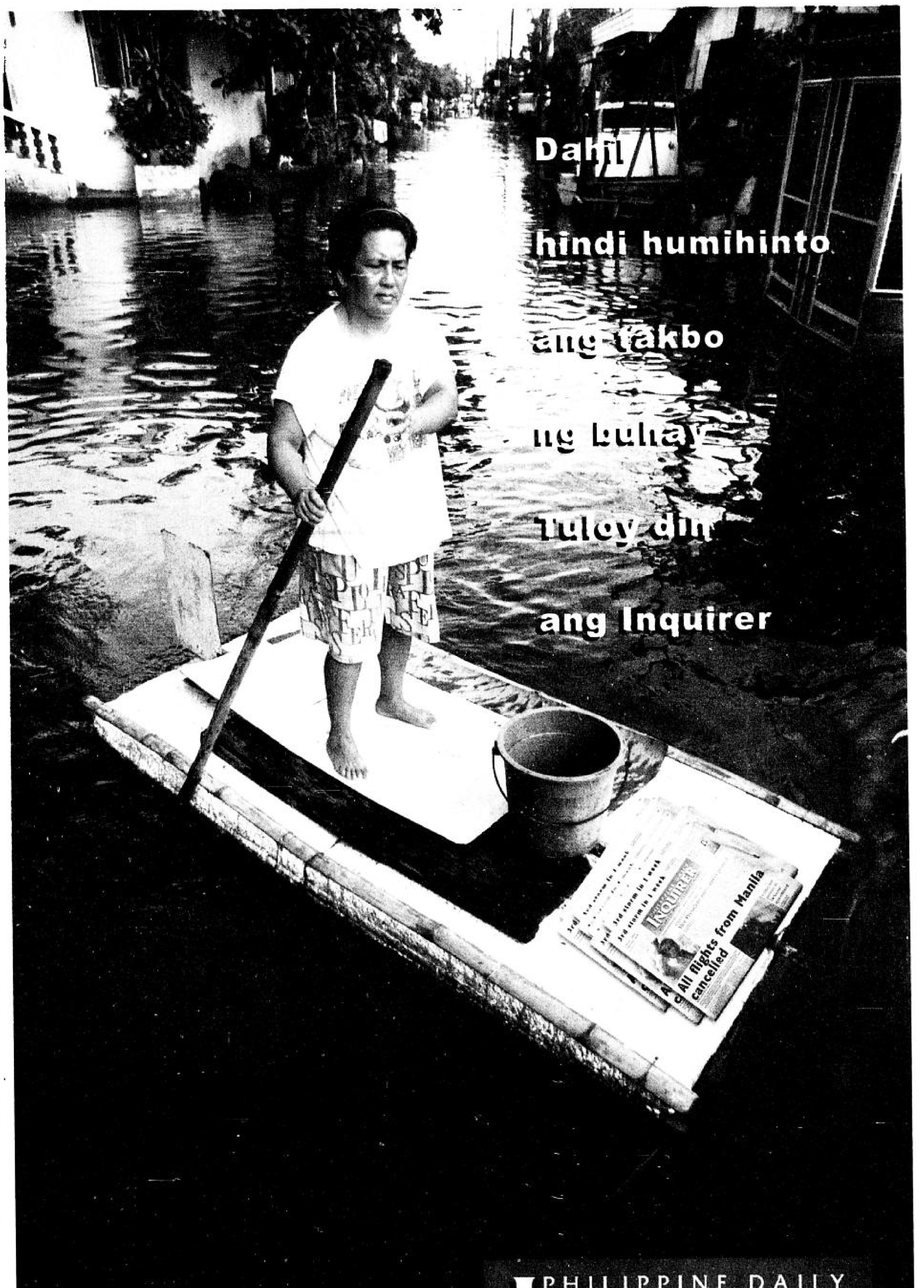
Like in the men's play, who has the eminent Roger Retuerto as coach, it will also be four days of action in the ladies division where the Filipinos' usual main rivals are the Koreans.

"Even in the men's division, our chief opponents are the South Koreans," said Feliciano. "The Thais will also contend. But we have one opponent less as Indonesia is not around this time."

The format as usual is four-to-play, three-to-count in men's play and three-to-play, two-to-count in women's play.

The country produced two silver medals in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad—the men's individual through Gerald Rosales and the team silver through Rosales, Que, La'O and Rosales' fellow professional Rhey Luna.

The ladies team then of Dorothy Delasin, Jennifer Rosales and Quiazon salvaged the team bronze.



The Philippine Daily Inquirer gets to readers all over the country consistently earlier regardless of whatever happens in life because it's the only national newspaper with printing and production facilities in Visayas and Mindanao not just in Metro Manila.

Because life does not stop, neither should the news.

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

BIG WAVES FROM ROWERS

Pinoys see action in 12 events today

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—The Philippines plunges into action in 12 disciplines today, with the rowers suddenly having big hopes of rowing home a first-ever medal–or medals–on the third day of the 14th Asian Games here.

Sydney Olympian Benjamin Tolentino Jr. is at the forefront of a four-man strong rowing team that barged into today's finals at the Nakdong River.

Tolentino, a former national youth volleyball player, and teammates Alvin Amposta, Nestor Cordova and Jose Rodriguez will become the biggest revelation from the 218-man RP contingent should they win today.

Efren "Bata" Reyes finally debuts today at the head of a huge billiards squad set to compete in both snooker and pocket billiards.

The spotlight will also start falling on boxing, the sport that equals billiards in rank in the pre-Asiad prediction that are a cinch to produce the precious gold/s for the counry.

Harry Tanamor (48kg) will fight Kyaw Swar Aung of Myanmar while veteran Romeo Brin (63kg) takes on a Mongolian in bouts that should produce victories to start the much-anticipated redemption of Philippine boxing after it emerged zero in 1998 in Bangkok. Boxing won three of the four gold medals won by the Philippines in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad.

The basketball squad will gun for an all-important third straight win against Japan while the country's swimmers and fencers resume action like cyclist Marites Bitbit in the road race.

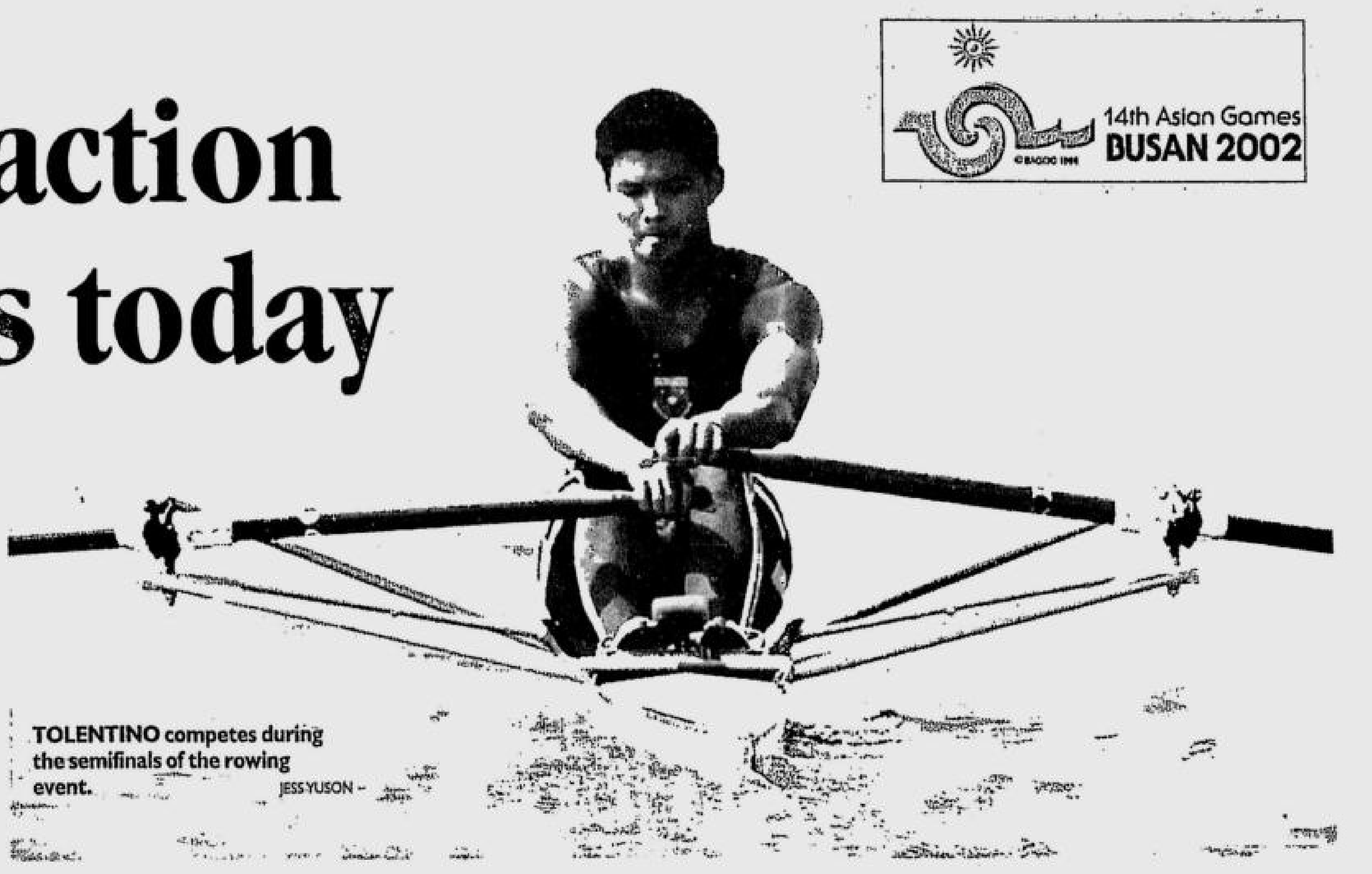
Gymnastics, shooting, squash, weightlifting and wrestling will also be in the fray as the Philippines resumes its drive to produce the miracle of a bountiful harvest of seven gold medals.

The country had only one gold medal in the last Asiad in Bangkok four years ago through the billiards doubles of Gande Valle and Romeo Villanueva.

Hopes of surpassing that lone gold are pinned on the shoulders of bowling, billiards, boxing, wushu, taekwondo and golf.

"Our athletes seemed focused and that's a good sign," said Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, who changed plans last night and will instead proceed to Nakdong River this morning to watch the rowers "gun for medal(s)–hopefully."

Cito Dayrit, the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, will join Buhain in cheering the rowers.



TOLENTINO competes during the semifinals of the rowing event. JESS YUSON

Jethro gunning for gold

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—He was once the world's fastest gun. Now, Jethro "Jet" Dionisio wants to become the best trap shooter as well.

Dionisio, a three-time world champion in practical shooting whose dominance in the '90s led the United States Practical Shooting Association to scrap the event they themselves invented, will be competing today in the men's trap 75 targets of the 14th Asian Games here.

ASIAD ROUNDUP

Nokor lifter cracks world mark

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—North Korean weightlifter Ri Song Hui broke a world record at the Asian Games on Tuesday, and China swamped archrival Japan in the swimming pool.

After Japan won four of five races Monday, the Chinese bounced back by taking all five of Tuesday's events, boosting their lead in the games' overall gold medals race.

China also won gold in judo, weightlifting and gymnastics, giving it eight for the day and 15 in all. Japan had 10 after winning three in judo and one in synchronized swimming.

South Korea's total reached six. It won two in fencing, one in seven-a-side rugby union and one in sepak takraw, a Southeast Asian specialty formerly dominated by the countries of that region.

Although second to South Korea in men's circle competition of sepak takraw, Thailand won its first gold of these games in the women's event. In the last games in 1998, the Thais won five of six sepak takraw golds and Vietnam won the other.

India's Yasin Reza Amirali and Rafath Habib beat Hong Kong's Marco Fu and Au Chi Wai 3-1 for the gold in doubles snooker, and Pakistan's Sahel Mohammed and Kumar Perwani Naveen took the bronze. It was the first medal of the games for all three nations.

RI: Snatch record. AP

North Korea, which had boycotted all previous international sports meets in South Korea, won its first gold here when Ri lifted a world record-tying 225.0 kilograms in the women's 53-kilogram division.

A large crowd of North and South Korean fans erupted in applause and began chanting Ri's name.

En route, she broke the world record for the snatch with a lift of 102.5 and added 122.5 in the clean and jerk. China's Yang Xia had set world marks of 100.0 in the snatch, 125.0 in the clean and jerk and 225.0 in total at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

The 23-year-old Ri, with silver medals from the last Asian Games in 1998 and the 2000 Olympics, dropped down to the 53-kilogram division after losing five kilograms earlier this year.

3rd Philtobo Mitra Cup racing festival on tonight at Santa Ana

By Edwin Villanueva

ONE of local racing's highly awaited events–the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization-3rd Futurity Championship Racing Festival–blasts off tonight at the Santa Ana Park.

The nine-race card officially ushers in the five-day racing festival which culminates with the staging of the five-division Mitra Cup Championships, a series of top money races among the best two-year-olds, three-year-olds and older horses bred in the country.

"Inspired by the huge success of last two editions of the Philtobo Futurity Championships, this year's program has now been expanded into a five-day racing festival featuring the best local horses in each competitive division," said Philtobo Mitra Cup chair Eric Tagle.

TAGLE

Highlight of the racefest are the Oct. 5 and 6 staging of the Mitra Cups which will be headlined by five P500,000-races, including the twin-bill Mitra Cup Juvenile Colts and Juvenile Fillies Championship for two-year-olds, the double-header Mitra Cup Three-Year-Old Colts and Three-Year-Old Fillies Championship and the Mitra Cup Classic for older horses.

The five majors will be disputed over 1,500 meters for Juveniles, 1,600 meters for 3-year-olds and 2,050 meters for the Classic. The winners get P300,000 each.

Battling it out in the two-year-olds colts are Arriverderci, High Octane, Reigns Supreme, Savvy Lad and Success Story. High Octane, recent winner of the Explosive Stakes, looms as the early favorite. On the distaff side of the juvenile division, 10 fillies will be disputing the title led fierce division rivals Shining Pyramid and Tatler Cover. Others in contention include Brainchild, Doña Gelay, Eye of the Day, Flying Machine, Forever Joyce, Honor Code, Sandata and Twister.

In the three-year-old colt division, last year's Juvenile Colt champion Mighty Strong will attempt to score an unprecedented back-to-back victory in the Mitra Cup. Set to challenge Mighty Strong for the crown are Baccarat, Bidang Bida, Ounce of Gold, Perfect Storm, San Diego Force and Schwarzenegger. The three-year-old distaff contest is an exciting rematch of this year's top Triple Crown candidate Golden Ballet, last year's Juvenile Filly champion and Halo Effect. Others in the hunt are Kay Gee Em Ey, Velocity and Windlass.

The Classic is expected to be more exciting with the participation of last year's 3YO winners Batangas Entry and Ilocandia Slew, as well as last year's Triple Crown champion Silver Story. Hyperbid, Kitty Hawk and Lord of All complete the cast.

NEW RACETRACK
Top officials of the Manila Jockey Club Inc. led by its president Alfonso Reyno Jr. (7th from left) preside over the official ground breaking of the San Lazaro Leisure Park Turf Club Building in Carmona, Cavite, the other day. Joining the historic event were (from left) Philracom commissioners Eduardo Jose and Felizardo Sevilla Jr., Carmona Mayor Roy Loyola, building contractor Mr. Espiritu, Philracom chair Jaime Dilag, MJCI chair Pedro Tan, MJCI director Martin Cepeda and MJCI director-treasurer Mariza Santos-Tan.

Rising stars of dancesport

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE FUTURE augurs well for dancesport in the country because of the fact that talented teen dance athletes such as Renier Mercado and Judith Ann Melencio and John Erolle Melencio and Krystel Tadeo are very much around to preserve the gains made by veteran internationalists like Bong Marquez and Belinda Adora.

Renier Mercado and Judith Melencio, 14 and 12 years old, respectively, and John Melencio and Judith Tadeo who will be both 18 four years from now, will be the ones representing the Philippines in future sporting competitions, including–hopefully–the Asian Games or perhaps, the Olympics.

"These youngsters are the future of Philippine dancesports," said Becky Garcia, president of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines. "By year 2008, these youthful dance athletes would have gained the needed international exposure, one reason why we are concentrating on training them."

Most recently, the Renier Mercado-Judith Melencio tandem won the gold medals in the star-studded Japan Superstar Championships, finishing first in the junior standard and Latin dance categories, while John Melencio and Krystel Tadeo shone in the 15th Singapore Lion City International Championships, capturing the gold in the Youth Latin discipline together with Brian and Karla Ocana. (Youth standard) and battle-tested Edna Ledesma and Brian Calo (Grade A Latin).

"We never have anything like this," Garcia said, proudly. "We are only 6 years old yet we are already making waves in the international dance scene. Our Latin dancers are now even ranked among the best in Asia."

Not only that. The country has also won the right to host the world-class Asia Pacific Championships under the aegis of the International Dancesport Federation (IDSF) and the DSCP on Nov. 8-10 at the Philsports Arena, proving that dancesport in the Philippines has taken enormous strides when ranged against the other dance organizations which have been in existence for ages.

"Dancesport has finally come of age," said council chair lawyer Noel Laman. "Furthermore," added vice president Jun Herrera, "we expect our dance athletes to even win some more medals because they now have their own training center at the Philsports Arena, courtesy of the Philippine Sports Commission."

Of course, credit also goes to the other members of the DSCP board composed of secretary general Jo Saliva, treasurer Glo Alcala, Andy Fornier, Marvie Cojuangco Yulo, Prof. Naomi Enriquez, Tonet Lagdameo, Gen. Sonny Yan, Rudy Co, Emma Nieto, Choña Mercado and Joel Ocsena. Incidentally, next month's Asia Pacific Championships will be held under the joint auspices of PSC chair Eric Buhain and Ms Garcia.

COKE-GO FOR GOAL. Launched in 1985, it is a living symbol of a genuine grassroots football program based on the idea that people even from dramatically diverse backgrounds can play together. It is a program that bridges the gap between the rich and the poor, between a wide variety of ethnic groups.

MJC hosts Congressional race

LIVING up to its commitment to promote the welfare and alleviate the plight of the disadvantaged sectors of society,

The Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI), in cooperation with the Manila Jockey Club Inc., will stage an innovative fund-raising project through a five-day horse racing festival at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

To be called the "Race For Life," the benefit racing project will unfold Oct. 9-13 and will be highlighted by the running of four top money races involving some of the country's top gallopers.

"We are grateful for the generous support of the Manila Jockey Club Inc. in providing the CSFI with an ideal venue to raise much-needed funds for the construction of a temporary haven for street children and we are very confident that such a noteworthy project will ultimately obtain the support of benefactors from both the public and private sectors," said CSFI president Gina P. de Venecia.

Mrs. De Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia, was actually referring to the planned construction of "The Haven," a temporary refuge facility for destitute children who live on the streets of Metro Manila.

Athletics' 'Lucky 13' off to Busan

By Marc Anthony Reyes

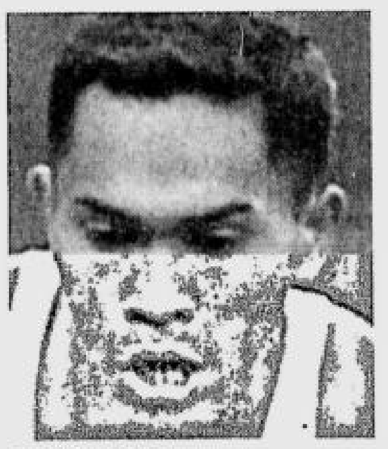
PHILIPPINE track and field's "lucky 13" are leaving for Busan today, five days before stalwarts Eduardo Buenavista, Lerma Bulauitan and Marestella Torres open the country's bid by competing in long jump and 10,000m in the 14th Asian Games.

Athletics

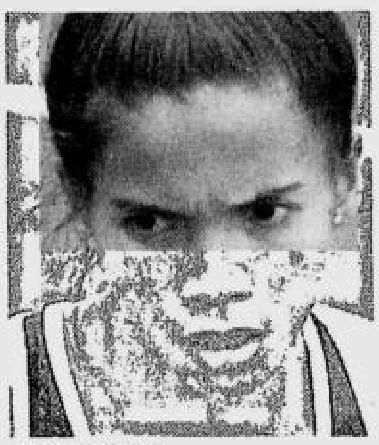
Buenavista, seeing action in the 5,000m and 10,000m, is facing strong opposition from long distance runners from Qatar, India and Japan, but the 4-foot-11 native of South Cotabato remains confident of his chances.

"They are more of steeplechase and 3,000m runners," Buenavista told the INQUIRER while training in midday sun at the Rizal Memorial track oval yesterday. "The longer the distance, the better our chances."

Buenavista, who will lead 12 others in a 2 p.m. flight today, said he has fully recovered from his ankle injury and resumed full regimen training in the slopes of Baguio City, where the whole team was camped since last year.



BUENAVISTA



BULAUITAN

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok refused to make any predictions and instead expressed joy over what he termed as "low expectation" of his wards.

"Instead of promising the number of medals we will win I just want to present several scenarios," Go said. "I have been following not only my athletes' records but also that of their rivals.

"I keep all the records and study it as if it is a dividendazo and I'm a horseracing bettor," said Go who used to own champion race horses.

He said Bulauitan and Torres, who won silver and bronze, respectively, in the 2002 Asian Championships, only have to worry about the Kazakh and the Indian long jumpers, whom they faced in several international events.

Bulauitan and Torres also took a bronze medal each in the money-rich Asian Grand Prix this year in the 100m and long jump, respectively.

Buenavista's toughest foes are actually 3,000m steeplechase runners and don't have the expertise in long, tiring race like the 10,000, according to Go.

John Lozada, a silver medalist in the Grand Prix, will be up against a South Korean and a Kazakh in the 800m. "But their times are not very far apart," Go added.

The Patafa chief is also counting on 400m contender Ernie Candelario and marathoner Christabel Martes, who placed second in this year's Asian Marathon. Other bets worth watching are Joebert Candelario in men's long jump, Sean Guevarra in high jump, Roy Vence and Allan Ballester in marathon and the relay team of Candelario, Ronnie Marfil, Rodrigo Tanuan and Jimar Aing.

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adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

ASIAN GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	15	7	9	31
Japan	10	7	9	26
South Korea	6	10	8	24
Thailand	1	2	2	5
N. Korea	1	1	0	2
Kazakstan	1	0	3	4
India	1	0	0	1
Chinese Taipei	0	2	3	5
Myanmar	0	2	0	3
Mongolia	0	1	2	3
Iran	0	1	1	2
Hong Kong	0	1	0	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	0	3	3
Vietnam	0	0	1	1
Indonesia	0	0	1	1
Turkmenistan	0	0	1	1

*As of 8 p.m.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

BASEBALL: MLB Division Series, 8 a.m. (r - 5 p.m.) and 12 noon (r - 8:30 p.m.), ESPN

This Week in Baseball, 11:30 a.m., ESPN

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour, 9 p.m., Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Valero Texas Open , 2 p.m., Star Sports

SOCCER: EPL, 7 a.m., Star Sports

Spanish Football League, 11 a.m. (r), Star Sports

UEFA Champions League, tomorrow 2:30 a.m., ESPN

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14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

RARING TO FIGHT: RP boxers (from left) Roel Laguna, Harry Tanamor, Romeo Brin, Violito Payla and Anthony Igusquiza. JESS YUSON

Filipino pugs start campaign

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—With the debilitating debacle of Bangkok '98 still fresh in his mind, Manny Lopez said yesterday his boxers are set to rise from that rut as they start their campaign today in the 14th Asian Games.

Notwithstanding South Korea's penchant to win all gold medals in boxing at all costs, Lopez said he was optimistic that his eight boys would score victories this time to erase that shutout in the Bangkok Asiad four years ago.

The South Koreans have earned not admiration but ire for their 12-gold medal sweep in the 1986 Asian Games as some of their victories were tainted by doubtful results due to spotty officiating.

Sydney Olympian Romeo Brin and Harry Tanamor, an internationalist seeing his first Asiad, will gun up RP's bid when they go up against opponents from different countries.

While it is almost conceded that Brin would dispatch Bayanmunkh Bayanjargal of Mongolia due to his vast experience, Tanamor's chances are suspect against his Myanmar foe who is noted to be a brawler right from the opening bell.

"We'll be going through the proverbial eye of the needle," said assistant coach Nolito "Boy" Velasco in Filipino of the country's chances to win that elusive gold.

"All the fights will be close, if not tough," said head coach Greg Caliwan, also in Filipino.

Bantamweight Ferdie Gamo (54kg) starts action tomorrow against the winner of the fight between Wahbeh Abdulla of Syria and Khidirov Beksod of Uzbekistan.

The 12-day slugfest is set at the Masan Gymnasium at the outskirts of this bustling city that lights up like Las Vegas at night.

Luck of the draw

The Philippines had the fortune to score some luck in the draw when Maraon Goles drew a bye and will only need to beat Chimlum Somchai of Thailand on Oct. 8 to assure himself of a bronze medal.

Chris Camat, the US-based light-middleweight, also earned a bye and will meet a Pakistani on Oct. 4, also needing a win to secure a bronze medal.

But three other Filipinos—Violito Payla, Roel Laguna and Anthony Igusquiza—will have to go through the circuitous route before barging into medal-producing fights.

Flyweight Payla (51kg) battles Doniyorov Tulashbov of Uzbekistan on Oct. 5 while Laguna takes on Thailand's Samaksaman Suthisak in a featherweight battle on Oct. 6.

Lightweight Igusquiza, also earning a bye, will climb the ring only on Oct. 7 facing the winner between Mukhchuluum Tserennadmid of Mongolia and Hamidi Yousef of Syria.

The boys have trained hard and part of their preparation were fights in many parts of the world in a serious bid to redeem themselves from the 1998 shutout in Bangkok that was followed by another no-gold result in the 2001 SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur.

All the 12 gold medals staked in the 1986 Seoul Asiad were almost won in shameless fashion by the Koreans, with officiating allegedly rigged mostly in the hosts' favor.

The last time the Philippines had a boxing bonanza was in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad, when light fly Onyok Velasco, flyweight Elias Recaido and lightwelter Reynaldo Galido won three of the country's four gold medals.

Velasco went on to win the silver medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics for the only second silver medal won by the country in the Olympiad after bantam Anthony Villanueva did it in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Bata weaves magic today

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—He has conquered the world with his cue stick.

Efren "Bata" Reyes will bring his magic act in the 14th Asian Games when he competes in the 8-ball pool singles preliminary of the billiards competitions today at the Dongju College gymnasium.

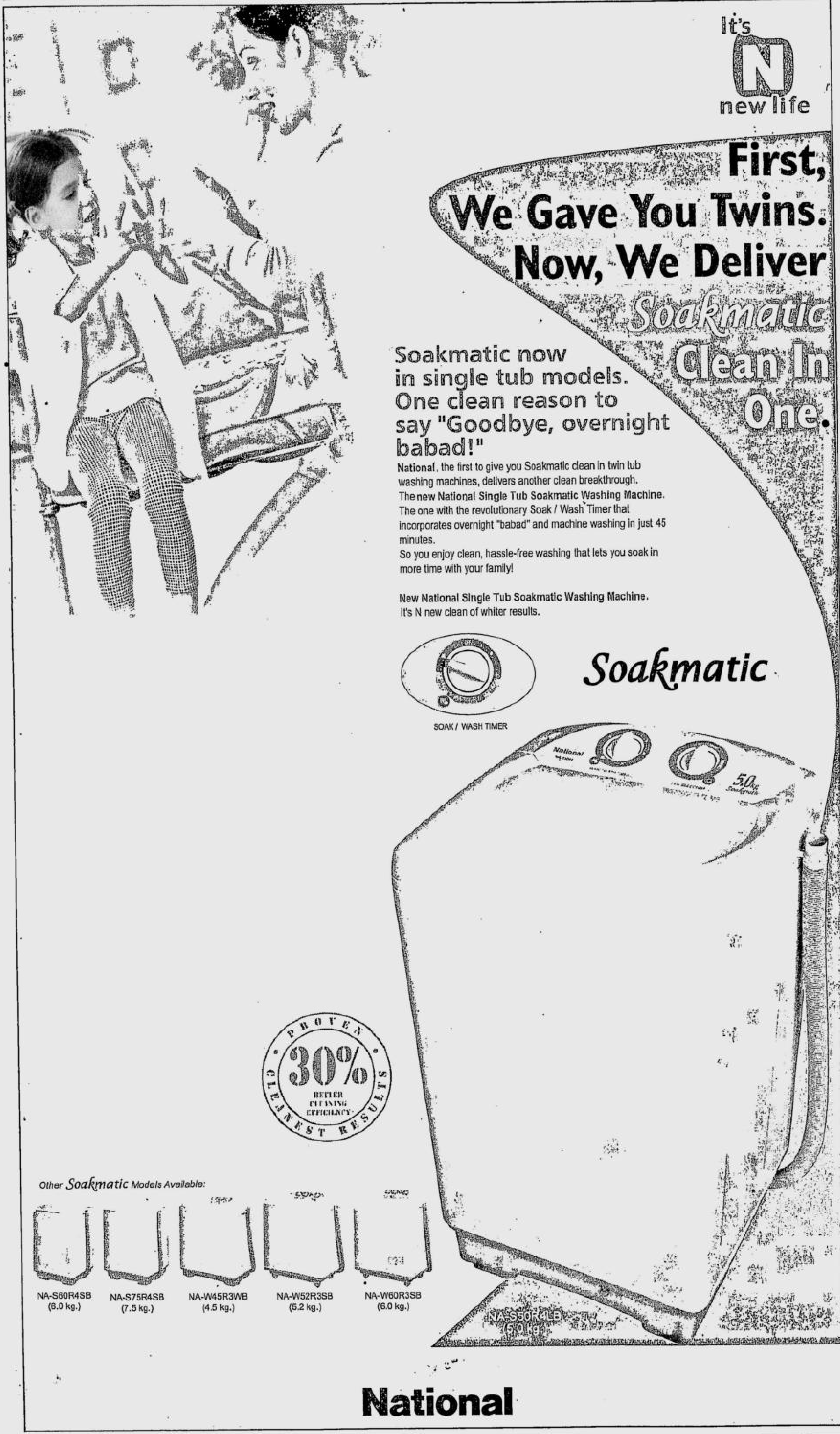
The former world champion and winner of numerous international tournaments is favored to win his first Asiad gold as he'll be up against opponents whom he'd defeated in the past or newcomers who hold him in awe.

"I'll just give it my best shot. In this game you can never be sure," said the 48-year-old Reyes, dubbed "The Magician" in the billiards community, who'll also be competing in the 3-cushion carom.

Reyes, together with Francisco "Django" Bustamante, never fails to draw a crowd whenever they practice at the billiards hall of the Athletes Village.

Out to challenge Reyes' supremacy are teammate Lee Vann Corteza and the bets from Japan, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong.

Just 23, Corteza is a double-gold medallist in the 1999 Brunei Southeast Asian Games and took home a gold and a silver in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEAG.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■ 2 kidnap suspects captured /A30
■ Graft raps vs QC officials, Manor owners /A30

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ BARE EYE: Here's another wrong tip: China's Yao Ming is a scarecrow /A30

Fernando on '04: I'd rather be janitor

By Leila B. Salaverria

LIKE MOST people who are being pushed into national politics, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday claimed he is not planning to run for any public post in the 2004 elections.

Interviewed by phone, Fernando at first said he had no comment on the report that Malacañang thinks he is a strong contender for vice president in 2004.

But asked whether he has plans to run in the national elections, Fernando said he has none.

What position does he want to hold then?

"Janitor, as head of the MMDA," he said.

The MMDA is tasked with, among others, disposing of Metro Manila's garbage, solving the traffic and the flood problems, and looking after urban development.

Militant groups criticized Malacañang's reported plan to field Fernando as President

FERNANDO/A30

WE WERE DANCERS ONCE... AND YOUNG Women dress up and dance to show the years have not slowed them down, during a celebration of Elderly Filipino Week at the Quirino Grandstand at Rizal Park. ERIK ARAZAS

NBI disputes findings of UP expert

By Philip Tubeza and Christian Esguerra

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday challenged the initial findings of University of the Philippines forensic expert Raquel B. Fortun that Baron Cervantes slay suspect Diosdado Santos had been shot in the mouth at close range.

In a news conference yesterday, NBI medico legal chief Dr. Max de Leon said Santos had been shot in the mouth with the gun at least 24 inches away.

"The evidence does not jibe (with the conclusion that Santos was shot at close range)," De Leon said. "(The gun) was more than 24 inches (away). There would have been tattooing if the gun had been 12 inches (closer to the mouth)."

He said there was no "burning, tattooing, or smudging" in Santos' mouth, which would have indicated that there was "contact fire."

Reyes explained that the abrasion mark on the suspects' lower lip was expected because the lower lip is a mucus membrane.

"It's a mucus membrane so it would naturally darken," Reyes said. "It's a soft tissue."

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said no doctor could say on her own that there was a rubout.

"You have to talk to the witnesses and look at the other evidence," Wycoco said. "While we were not there, we believe (in) the regularity of the (police) operation.

"So, unless there is evidence that shows otherwise, we still believe that there was (no rubout)," he said.

Wycoco added that NBI doctor Renato Bautista conducted an autopsy on Santos on Sept. 19, a day after Santos, Rodolfo "Bullet"

TITLE/ A30

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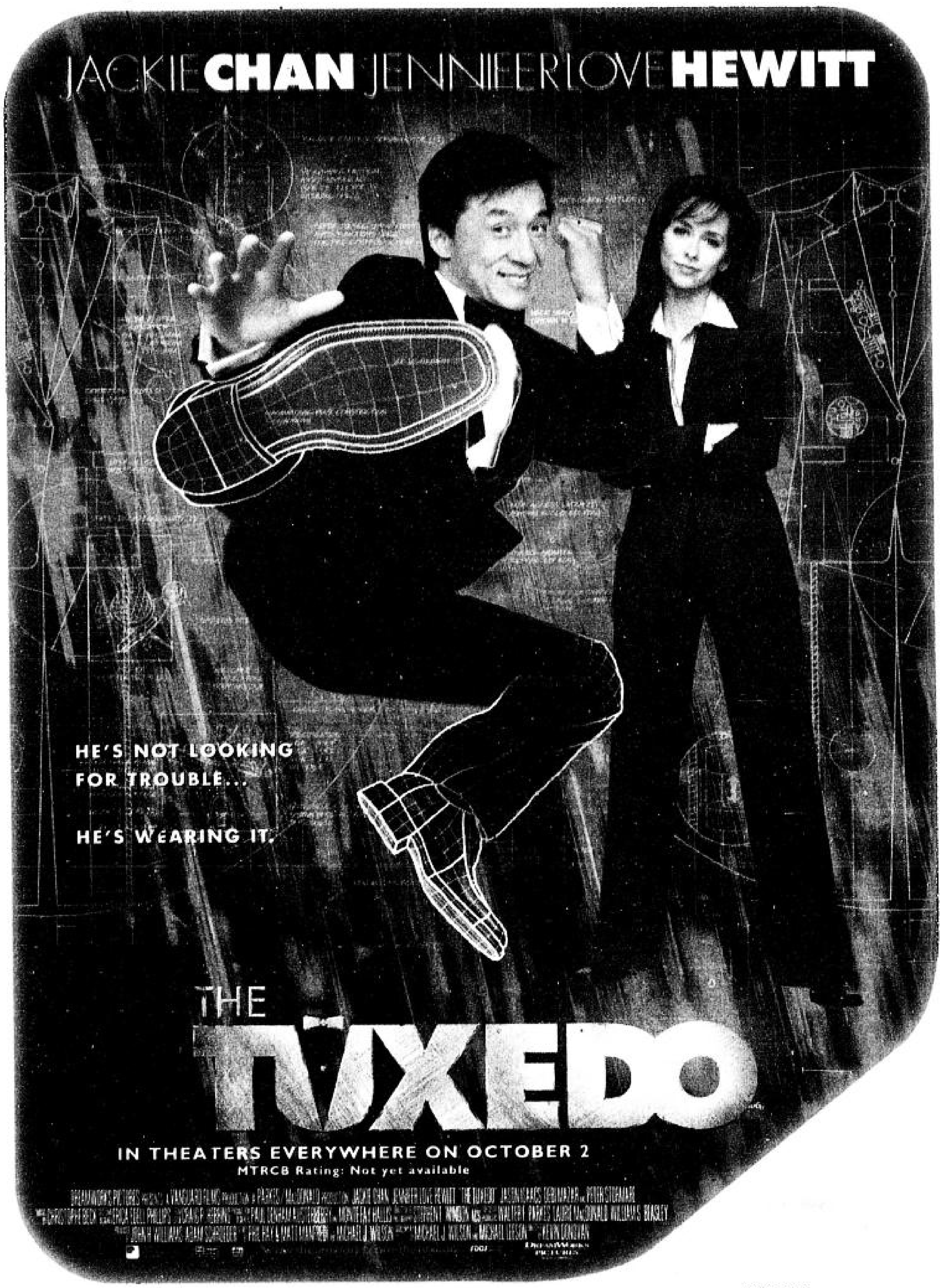
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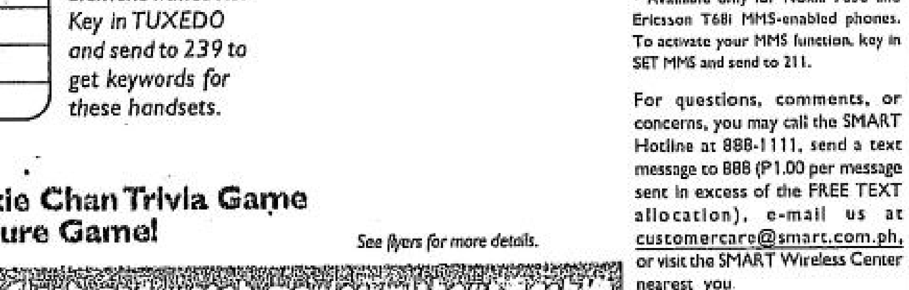

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Here's another wrong tip: China's Yao Ming is a scarecrow

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BUSAN—The giant who was supposed to lead the opponents in battle turned out to be a dud. A total liability to his squad, sick and empty like an outsized scarecrow in a windless wasteland.

Thank you, said PBA Commissioner Bernardino after the RP national basketball team had toyed with North Korea and its overprized, overrated, slot man, Ri-Myung-jun.

Thank you, Bernardino repeated, but the fears were all unfounded.

Sorry, I mumbled shyly on the phone.

It's not fair what I had done to our national basketball team. I sounded a false alarm.

It was as foul as telling a lost motorist to go north instead of south.

I sincerely felt I had to be penalized for having warned the RP team coaching staff about Ri, who scattered himself all over the hardcourt like a tubercular janitor pulled out of the intensive care unit and fitted the North Korean national jersey No. 15.

No exaggeration, Ri was the exact opposite of what I had warned he would be in the game against RP on Monday.

Sanely for the North Koreans, Ri, who had once thought of trying out in the NBA, should have been put in the paralympic squad, where he could be more useful riding on steel wheels instead of his rusty, creaky, old legs.

***

Anyway, as I promised, I rushed to this cool, bustling seaport capital for what I had thought was an urgent mission.

It was a task for flag and country, I proudly reminded myself on the plane. I could not waste time.

So, in the morning after my arrival, I gazed at the romantic, foggy, post-card pretty harbor from the hotel window and dialed Mr. Bernardino's hotel room. The poor fellow was out to attend the morning RP team workout hours before the 5 p.m. match against North Korea on Monday.

Finally caught up with Jun B. after lunch.

Thank you very much for your concern, he said, after I gave him the reminder. I told him how Chito Loyzaga had effectively tied down the North Korean giant in the 1990 Asiad.

Make somebody use the doorbell defense, I bragged, and halt Ri by pressing hard a thumb on his ribs and back.

That said, I settled for a 4,000-won Japanese noodle (udon) lunch in the broadcast café, before I was kidnapped by my friend Sev Sarmienta to pinch-hit and do the Monday basketball analysis in the NBN coverage of the 14th Asiad.

***

I had asked if there was a Filipino or half-Pinoy on our national squad who could do a Chito Loyzaga and pull the Nokor skyscraper closer down to earth.

I had also warned that the massive importance of Ri in his squad could not be over-emphasized.

On top of that, I also aired this fear that the North Korean team could utilize more shooters in a revised and much-improved balanced attack.

In a way, I had told home fans to be ready to shed tears for the home team in case the Nokor scoring machine managed to go full blast.

But after Ri had made just a few runs up and down the court, Sev Sarmenta was laughing on the microphone.

The great giant who I had warned could wreak havoc on the RP defense line was nowhere on the active hardcourt.

Or if there, he was a forlorn, elongated circus clown who had been pushed into the wrong playing field.

Ri was both funny and tragic.

He was hardly a factor as the RP team, after successfully stonewalling the flanks, proceeded to feast on their supposedly mysterious North Korean opponents.

***

For the record, the reason I had aired that undue fear of the North Korean team was mainly because of the way it had beaten the RP team in the 1974 (not 1984 as previously stated) Tehran Asian Games.

A later RP team coached by Sen. Bobby Jaworski had a rough sailing against Ri and the Nokor team in Beijing 1990 before it could move up into the final match against host China.

***

Look, I had foolishly given our RP national team wrong directions in that game against North Korea on Monday.

They took note of my advice to try and thumb Ri about in defense, Commissioner Bernardo explained. He said he had specified my tip to Allan Caidic of the RP coaching staff.

But they did not find it necessary anymore, Bernardino said, apparently relieved.

Anyway, I should not be giving any further tips after that booboo of mine on Monday.

But if I got a chance, I would tell officials of the North Korean squad that taking out Ri and sending him somewhere else, maybe to a pedigree farm, would readily push their basketball program light years ahead.

RP faces tough Japan today in the basketball quarterfinals before going up against China and Chinese-Taipei respectively.

As nobody in the RP team is expected to again believe me after what I had done, let me tell them this: Yao Ming of China is not any better than the outsized, useless scarecrow from north of this Land of the Morning Calm.

2 kidnap suspects captured

By TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

TWO SUSPECTS in the 1998 kidnapping of German Fritz Walter Lange in Antipolo City were finally arrested and presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday at the Rizal police provincial headquarters in Taytay.

Reynaldo Ablay, alleged leader of the Ablay kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) syndicate, and Ronaldo Enteroso were arrested near their homes in Antipolo City by Rizal police on Sept. 25, according to Philippine National Police chief Dir. Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane.

Yesterday, police rescued on Tuesday an 11-year-old kidnap victim and arrested two of his kidnappers in Quezon City.

Authorities said Ablay and Enteroso was arrested on the strength of arrest warrants issued by the court in connection with the 1998 kidnapping of Lange. Arresting officers also had an arrest warrant for Ablay for other kidnapping charges. The warrant was issued last Sept. 23 by Judge Mauricio Rivera of the 4th Judicial Regional Branch 73 in Antipolo City.

Armed men in black T-shirts and masks kidnapped Lange in his home in Antipolo, and freed him after payment of a $90,000 ransom.

Ablay, 43, and Enteroso, 26, were part of a 10-man kidnap gang, police said.

Civilians had tipped off police that Ablay had been freely roaming Barangay Calumpang in Teresa, Rizal.

During interrogation, Ablay tagged Enteroso as one of his cohorts and pinpointed his whereabouts, police said.

Police said the other members of the kidnap group are Jaime Cuadra, Gary Tuazon, Rogelio Mercado and his son Rogelio Jr. Cuadra, who were earlier arrested.

The rest of the suspects are still at large.

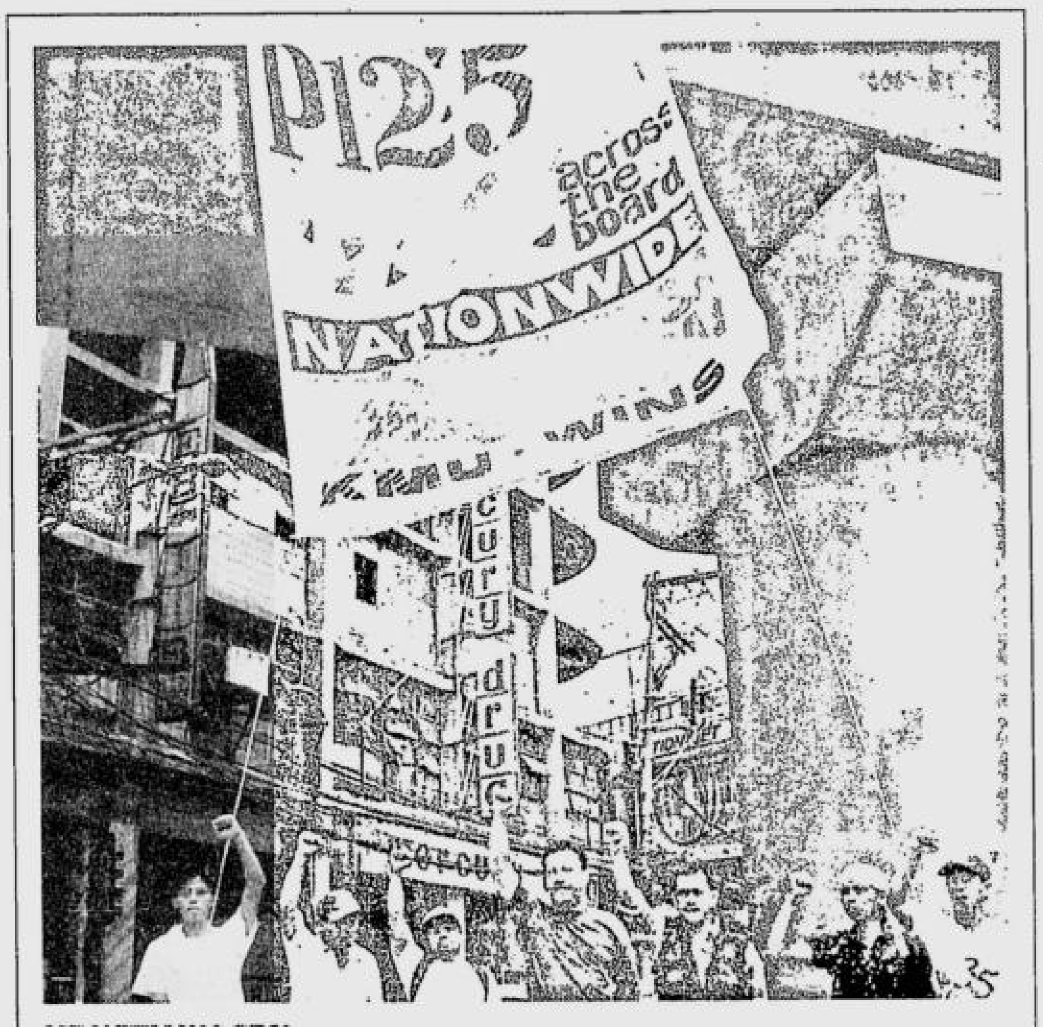
In the rescue in Quezon City yesterday, Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro, Central Police District director, identified the two suspects as vendor Punud Ibrahim, 64, of Barangay Commonwealth, and his son Menzo, 21.

The two allegedly abducted Saima Ima Pacasmo, of BF Filinvest, Barangay Batasan, last Sept. 18 after the boy left the Commonwealth Elementary School.

Police said the kidnappers brought the boy to a safehouse inside the Muslim compound in Taguig.

The boy's mother Arabia Ampaso allegedly owed Ibrahim's sister Saamina and a certain Pangalian P30,000.

Chief Insp. Bevin Fabillar set up an entrapment and rescue operation on Commonwealth Avenue.



UP WITH WAGES!
Members of labor organizations raise their fist in a call for a wage increase, during a peaceful demonstration at the Don Chino Roces Bridge (Mendiola) near Malacañang.
ERIK ARAZAS

Where have all Atienza's 28 benches gone?

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday ordered the police to look for the 28 wooden benches stolen from the promenade on Roxas Boulevard, which he has spruced up.

Atienza said each bench cost P1,500 and was set up on the sidewalk along Roxas Boulevard as part of the city's urban renewal program.

But one rainy night last week, thieves on board two trucks allegedly took the 28 benches.

Officials later learned that witnesses wondered why the benches were being taken and put on the trucks but they did not do anything, thinking that the trucks were from City Hall.

But Atienza said he had not ordered the removal of the benches. He instead ordered Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong to find out who were responsible for the theft and to recover the benches.

Atienza, through his "Buhayin ang Maynila" proram, has been trying to improve tourist attractions in the capital, including the boulevard, particularly the portion near the Malate Church.

Graft raps vs QC officials, Manor owners

By Agnes E. Donato

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman yesterday recommended the filing of graft charges against 16 Quezon City Hall officials and employees, as well as the owner and incorporators of the ill-fated Manor Hotel.

In an 18-page joint resolution, graft investigators Hilario Favila Jr., Myrna Corral and Wilfredo Pascasio ruled that the "negligence" of the City Hall officials, its employees and the hotel owners caused the tragic death of 74 people and the injury of at least 19 others in the Quezon City Manor Hotel fire in August last year.

The investigators recommended the indictment of Alfredo Macapugay, former city engineer and building official, Romeo Montallana, acting chief of the electrical division of the city engineer's office, and building inspectors Rodel Mesa and Gerardo Villasenor

They will be charged before the Sandiganbayan for six counts of violation of Section 3 (e) of Republic Act 3019.

According to the Ombudsman, the City Hall officials have given "unwarranted benefit, undue preference and advantage to the Manor Hotel owners by deliberately dispensing with the annual inspection of the hotel to determine the compliance of the structural, fire and safety requirements provided by the National Building Code and the Fire Code of the Philippines."

The investigators said the officials have also allegedly failed to impose sanctions and closure proceedings against the hotel despite prior knowledge of violations repeatedly committed between 1996 and 2001.

They also recommended the filing of a graft charge against former city building official Donato Rivera, engineer Romualdo Santos, and Severino Mariano for issuing a certificate of occupancy to the hotel owners in December 1991.

The three building officials allegedly certified that the hotel's building structure had complied with the National Building Code standards, even though it was a fire hazard.

The Ombudsman also recommended two counts of graft to be filed before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court against former Business Permits and Licensing Office Chief Rafael Galvez, license inspectors Godfrey Colet, Jose Caluan and Voltaire Padilla, and utility worker Willy Perez, for issuing a business permit to the hotel despite the lack of a Fire Safety Inspection Certificate and Electrical Safety Clearance.

Another two counts of graft charges will be filed against Galvez for giving the hotel a business permit in 1997, again despite the owners' failure to secure a Fire Safety Inspection and Electrical Safety Clearance from the Bureau of Fire and Protection and the Office of the City Engineer.

Montallana will also be charged before the Quezon City court for his failure in 1995 to conduct an annual inspection of the hotel's electrical system.

Former Quezon City fire marshal Senior Supt. Manuel Baduria Jr. will be charged with five counts of graft for his alleged failure to conduct the mandatory fire safety inspection at the hotel from 1992 to 1996.

Capt. Reynaldo Simpao, chief of the Fire Prevention and Inspection Division of the QC Fire Station, Lt. Col. Wenceslao Romero, former QC fire marshal for District 11; and SPO3 Teodorico Gaela of the QC Fire Station, will be charged with one count each for allegedly certifying the hotel complied with requirements even though no fire safety inspection was conducted .

Manor Hotel owners William and Rebecca Genato, incorporators Porfirio Germina, Marion Fernandez, Dionisio Cua Arengino, Antonio Beltran and Candelaria Aranador, and electrical engineer Edgadro Merida, will be included as co-conspirators in the graft charges.

"The principle of conspiracy has been established in these twin cases as inferred from the common criminal design and purpose of the respondents," the the graft investigators ruled.

The complaint against former QC fire marshals, Senior Supt. Carlito Romero and Inspector Ricardo Lemence, industrial safety division chief Julius Villanueva, annual building inspector Winston Angeles, and Luis Sol Jr. and Ernesto Madrilejo of the annual building inspection office, was dismissed due to lack of evidence.

The Ombudsman recommended bail of P30,000 for each respondent.

NBI disputes findings ...

From page A29

Patinio and Eugene Radam, were killed in a gunbattle in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Bautista said that when he examined Santos' body, it had already been embalmed in a Cavite funeral parlor not accredited by the NBI.

"We don't (even) know the caliber of the firearm used because the three gunshot wounds had been sutured (closed) when I autopsied him," he said.

Fortun autopsied Santos' body on Friday before it was buried on Sunday.

Bautista also challenged Fortun's observation that the suspect's mouth was not so bloodied, suggesting that it was the last shot.

Santos had been shot three times, twice in the chest.

Bautista said the UP forensic pathologist would not have found it bloodied since it had already been cleaned up when the body was embalmed.

Fortun said the absence of so much blood in the mouth suggested that Santos had low blood pressure when he was shot in the mouth either because he was dying or he was already dead.

She said this also suggests that whoever shot Santos in the mouth might have wanted to make sure he was dead.

But Reyes said "no doctor can say that (for sure), unless he or she was at the crime scene."

Wycoco said the NBI was not doubting Fortun's credibility, and that the bureau was just presenting its findings.

He also said the NBI was not withholding its autopsy report on Santos.

He said the bureau only gives copies of the autopsy report to the immediate family of the deceased.

In Santos' case, the NBI did not give out a copy of the report because it was Santos' brother, not his wife, who went to the NBI asking for a copy.

Wycoco said Santos' wife should have at least given a letter to her brother-in-law authorizing him as her representative when he went to the bureau.

Members of Santos' family have been asking for a copy of the report since the reported shootout on Sept. 18.

Leonard de Vera, the lawyer of the family of Baron Cervantes, said PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane should also release the after-operation report on the Sept. 18 "shootout" in Cavite.

Santos, Patinio and Radam were identified as the kidnappers of businessman Jose Penano, and later were tagged in the killing of Cervantes, self-styled government spokesperson, in Las Piñas last year.

Fernando on '04: I'd rather be janitor

From page A29

Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate in 2004, calling the team-up "a perfect fascist partnership."

Militants and vendors' groups have been protesting Fernando's campaign to rid the sidewalks of all obstructions, including the vendors themselves. The groups have said that Fernando's projects are anti-poor, and they compared him to Hitler for ordering the confiscation and destruction of sidewalk vendors' merchandise.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-NCR and the Alyansa ng mga Manininda para sa pagtatanggol ng Kabuhayan at Karapatan (ALMAKKA) said the proposal to field Fernando for vice president was distressing.

"This would only manifest a clear and perfect fascist partnership that would lead to the road to perdition for the country," Bayan-NCR spokesperson Ron Hubbard said in a statement.

"Maybe (President) GMA is just showing her true colors and she's like BF, anti-poor and a fascist," Hubbard said.

Don Pangan of Sanlakas said Fernando would never win as vice president, if he would run, because he has been abusing the poor.

Also yesterday, 10 workers of BF Metal, a company which Fernando used to head before he entered politics, began the first day of their hunger strike to protest what they said was their unfair dismissal from work more than a year ago. The workers also want 55 other dismissed workers to be reinstated.

Members of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and employees of several big companies accompanied the BF Metal workers to the MMDA office yesterday.

"Since Fernando seems intent on killing us by cutting off our livelihood, he might as well see us slowly die in front of his office," said Moises Rodriguez, head of the BF Metal Labor Union.

The BF workers said they should not have been dismissed because, contrary to the decision of a labor arbiter, they held not an illegal strike but a protest outside their working hours. They said their time cards would prove that they went to work on time on the day they were supposed to have conducted a strike.

Rodriguez said the workers' children have not been able to eat three times a day. Some even had to stop schooling because their fathers could not provide for them.

He added that despite Fernando's insistence that his campaign to rid the sidewalks of obstructions is mandated by law, the MMDA chair himself has violated the law in his own company.

The workers called Fernando a "terrorist" for not treating BF Metal employees well.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ruffa's mom Annabelle and new manager Angeli are newfound friends

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Jules' 'protection' of Assunta turning off people

THE FIERY **Annabelle Rama** getting along well with talent manager **Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano**?

And Annabelle allowing her only daughter, **Ruffa Gutierrez**, to be managed by Angeli?

When Annabelle and Angeli met to talk about Ruffa's career, even the actress-beauty queen herself was surprised that her mom and her new talent manager were hitting it off well.

"They talk about anything and everything whenever they see each other," says Ruffa, the newest addition to the Genesis Entertainment stable of talents.

"The first time they met, my mom told me, 'Ang bait pala ni Angeli,'" she says. "They've never stopped talking since."

Ruffa says she has always been close to Angeli because her good friend **Donita Rose** is also a Genesis talent.

"Every time I needed advice or spiritual guidance, I always turned to Tita Angeli," Ruffa says. "Whenever she's in the States, I also make time to go out with her. But it's rather funny because Donita was one of the last to know that I have joined Genesis already."

In the past two years, Ruffa shuttled between the US and Manila to fulfill her show-biz commitments. She was based in Los Angeles, where she worked for Century Productions of **Kenneth Botthelo**. She hosted the Disney Countdown to the New Millennium, which was beamed worldwide from the Disney World theme park in Orlando, Florida.

Ruffa is not renewing her contract with Century because of her Turkish boyfriend, **Yilmaz Bektas**.

"Yilmaz prefers that I work here," Ruffa allows. "He knows I'm safer here because my family is here. He's more lenient and understanding now."

Ruffa points out, however, there's no bad blood between her and her erstwhile American employer.

"I will always be grateful to Mr. Botthelo," she says. "We had a very good professional relationship. I spent the best three years of my life working for his company. I went to a lot of exciting places, met a lot of interesting celebrities. I attended the Grammys.

"Given a chance, I will do it again. They never really closed their doors on me. I am still willing to work for them on a per project basis."

When Ruffa decided to return to the country for good, she felt she needed a manager.

"I was getting a lot of offers but I couldn't accept a long-time offer because I was here only for two to three weeks each time," she explains. "I felt I didn't need a manager then because I was always out of the country, although **Jun Lalin** who handles my TV bookings.

"While I left my career here to work in the States, now I have left my career there to work back here."

Angeli says Ruffa has easily endeared herself to the staff of Genesis Entertainment in the short time since she joined the company.

"The staff loves her because she's very nice, easy to like and thoughtful," Angeli says of her new talent.

Last June, Ruffa was launched as the image model of Gandang Ricky Reyes.

The actress-beauty queen will soon be in the GMA 7 primetime soap, "Habang Kapiling Ka," which will replace "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin." She gets to work with her brothers **Tonton** and **Richard Gutierrez**, as well as with her ex-flame **Zoren Legaspi**.

"I don't mind working with Zoren," Ruffa says. "It doesn't bother me. He's already married with kids. I don't have anything to do with his personal life.

"We already did a tele-sine before, long after we broke up. He was also trying to get me to do a show with him in the States, but it didn't push through because of my schedule."

Ruffa plans to get an acting coach before she starts work in the new soap.

"I haven't acted in a long while. I'd like to learn a few acting techniques again."

HOME FOR GOOD. Ruffa Gutierrez

More harm than good

MANY show biz insiders are saying that Negros Occidental Rep. **Jules Ledesma** is doing more harm than good to the career of actress **Assunta de Rossi**.

Aside from taking away Assunta from her family, particularly her mom **Nenita** and actress-sister **Alessandra**, Jules reportedly meddles in every deal and project that involves Assunta.

In Subic last week, Jules was said to have prevented Assunta from reporting to the set of Regal's Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Mano Po," due to a "security alert."

The two-day filming was packed up, which prompted Regal Films producer **Lily Monteverde** to remove Assunta from the cast and replace her with Kris Aquino.

"Mano Po" also stars **Maricel Soriano, Richard Gomez, Eddie Garcia** and **Ara Mina**.

Jules reportedly also wants a say in the scripts of Assunta's movies. A member of the staff of **Joel Lamangan's** "Bahid," which stars Assunta, said Jules wanted to change the script by Palanca-winning writer **Roy Iglesias**. Jules submitted two different sequences, but these were reportedly rejected by Lamangan.

The director reportedly told Jules: "I already gave Assunta two acting awards, why are you trying to insist on having it your way?"

Jules also asked Assunta to back out of the forthcoming afternoon GMA 7 soap, "Hawak Ko ang Daigdig," even after the actress had already taped for five weeks.

The soap is directed by **Gina Alajar** and produced by Tape Inc. It will be aired after the noontime show, "Eat Bulaga."

Jules is even said to be threatening to file a suit against Assunta's talent manager, **Manny Valera**, "for explotation of a minor."

Assunta, who is only 19, has a contract with Manny until 2007. Jules wants to buy out the contract of the actress and offered Manny P3 million for it.

But Manny was said to be asking for P10 million. Still, Jules didn't relent.

Manny was willing to release Assunta from her management contract, provided she would stop making movies and leave show biz for good. Apparently, that is not Jules' plan for Assunta, whom he wants to stay in the limelight.

Jules' protectiveness has turned off a lot of people, including entertainment writers. It is said that whenever Jules reads a negative writeup about him or Assunta, he threatens to sue the writer.

A source close to Jules, however, defended him: "All he wants is to protect Assunta."

Jules' 'traits'

SENT by text: "What does Assunta like in Jules?

"His goldliness, cashualness, moneyrism, caracter, personality, creditbility, bankground and standing."

FIENNES. His performance is a marvel.

'SPIDER'

A fine tangled web

By Irvin Contreras
Contributor

REVIEW

"SPIDER" starts spinning its web in a train station where we see people disembarking, but one man stands out in the crowd. From the way he acts, walks and carries his briefcase, we know instantly that something's amiss.

His name is Dennis Clegg (Ralph Fiennes) who, after leaving the train station, mutters his way into a resting home of sorts run by Mrs. Wilkinson (Lynn Redgrave). He barely speaks to anyone and spends most of his time scribbling gibberish in his tiny notebook and playing with jigsaw puzzles. Otherwise he just stays in his room and journeys into his very own memories, which brings him face to face with his father (Gabriel Byrne), his mother (Miranda Richardson) and even his younger self (Bradley Hall). The journey would lead him into a painfully tragic realization.

The film's title comes from Clegg's nickname, given to him by his mother because of his fascination with spiders and his habit of decorating his room with ropes made to resemble a spider web.

Subtle

The film is directed by David Cronenberg, best known for his shocking, grotesque imagery in such films as "The Fly, "Naked Lunch" and "Dead Ringers." Those familiar with Cronenberg's past work will be surprised that this film is quite subtle compared to his other more popular works. It is almost devoid of visuals that are, for lack of a better word, Cronenberg-ish but it is no less twisted and no less interesting.

The film is based on the novel by Patrick McGrath, who also wrote the screenplay.

When I first heard this film was going to get a general commercial release in Manila, I was pleasantly surprised. From what I've read and heard about it, this is the kind of almost unmarketable art film which does not get public screenings except in film festivals and special events. It has not been given a general or even a limited release in the United States. Indeed, when I said to my fellow movie geeks from America that I was going to see this much talked about film, they were pretty jealous.

Schizophrenia

The film was in competition at the Cannes Film Festival and won an award at the Venice Film Festival. It has won rave reviews and got a lot of people talking.

The question is: Does it merit such attention? The answer, I'm happy to say, is yes.

From the beautiful music which accompanies the opening credits, to its very final frame, the film hooks you from beginning to end. Once you see Clegg, you find yourself wondering. What the hell happened to this guy? Why is he like that? Where is he going?

The film answers these questions little by little, letting us feel the characters and the general atmosphere instead of assaulting our senses with action and loud imagery.

The film shares a common theme with last year's Best Picture Oscar winner, "A Beautiful Mind" as it tackles the mental illness schizophrenia. But unlike that Ron Howard film, "Spider" does not resort to phony cinematic tricks, does not employ the standard Hollywood formula and does not gloss over the tragedy of the illness.

Unlike "A Beautiful Mind", "Spider" challenges the viewer. It makes the viewer keep on guessing what will happen next. It actually respects the audience's intelligence.

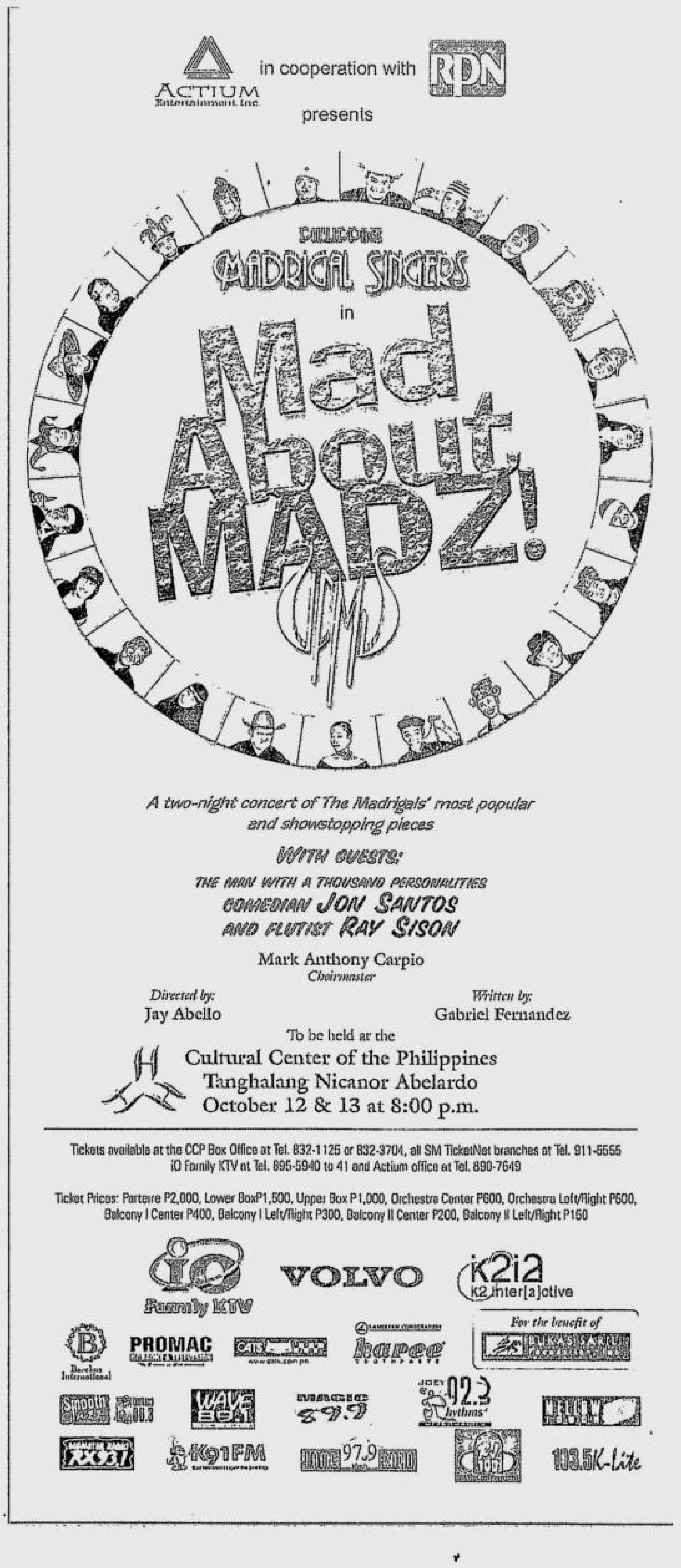
Underrated

Ralph Fiennes's performance as Dennis Clegg is a marvel. He hardly says anything but his facial expressions and mannerisms say a lot more than dialogue ever could. Not all actors can pull this off.

Special mention should also be made of Miranda Richardson, a truly underrated actress who plays not one but three roles in the film. I am not going to reveal the other two characters she plays, in addition to her role as the mother. You have to see it to believe it.

The rest of the supporting cast also acquit themselves well: John Neville, who plays an elderly man who keeps Clegg company in the home, and Lynn Redgrave both made their smallish roles memorable.

Newcomer Bradley Hall and Gabriel Byrne also perform well as the younger Clegg and Clegg's father, respectively.



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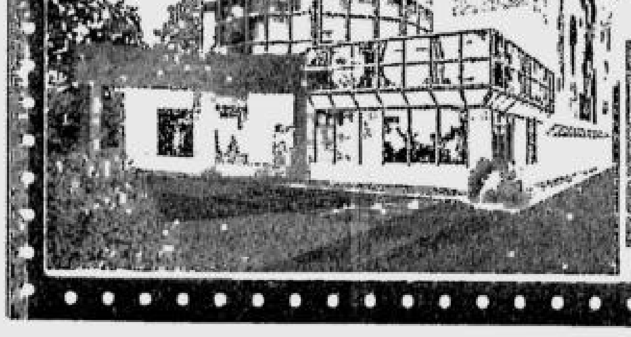

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6 REIGN OF FIRE
7 PROSTI
8 THE TUXEDO
9 ENOUGH
RED BLOODED AMERICAN ...

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 THE TUXEDO
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 THE ROOKIE
5 REVELATION
6 TUKAAN
7 K-19
8 THE TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
2 CLOSED
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ROAD TO PERDITION
5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 THE TUXEDO
7 CLOSED
8 REVELATION

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 THE TUXEDO
2 ENOUGH
3 K-19
4 REVELATION
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 PROSTI

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 PROSTI
2 SPY KIDS 2
3 THE TUXEDO
4 ENOUGH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 THE TUXEDO
2 PROSTI
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 VOODOO

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 ROAD TO PERDITION
2 THE ROOKIE
3 TUKAAN
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 THE TUXEDO

SM BICUTAN
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3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
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3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/9:05/10:40
LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

2 THE TUXEDO
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/9:05/10:45
LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
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Regular Rate : P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

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MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
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NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16 633- 7641 loc. 279
1 THX TUXEDO 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
2 TUXEDO
3 ENOUGH
4 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
5 PROSTI
6 BIRTHDAY GIRL
7 SIMONE
8 SPY KIDS 2
9 VAN WILDER
10 ROAD TO PERDITION

MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema / P65 Ilaval cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536 -7809- 12
1 TUXEDO
2 SPY KIDS 2
3 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
4 BIRHTDAY GIRL
5 PROSTI
6 ENOUGH
7 TUXEDO

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
2 TUXEDO
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ENOUGH
5 TUXEDO
6 VAN WILDER
7 BIRTHDAY GIRL
8 PROSTI

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 TUXEDO
2 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
3 PROSTI
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 ENOUGH
6 SPY KIDS 2
7 ROAD TO PERDITION
8 VAN WILDER

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 TUXEDO
2 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
3 PROSTI
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 ENOUGH
6 SPY KIDS 2

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 TUXEDO
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 DIVINE SECRETS OF YAYA SISTERHOOD
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 REVELATION
6 LEFT BEHIND

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
1 TUXEDO
2 REIGH OF FIRE
3 RAOD TO PERDITION
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 REVELATION
6 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS...

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5318 / 5270
1 LEFT BEHIND
2 PROSTI
3 TUXEDO
4 VOODOO
5 REVELATION
6 TUXEDO

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

ROAD TO PERDITION

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For screening times call 729-7777

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

ALL DIGITAL SOUND CINEMAS

G1 GLORIETTA 1
THE TUXEDO
BIRTHDAY GIRL
PROSTI
ENOUGH

G4 GLORIETTA 4
ENOUGH
THE TUXEDO
THE TUXEDO 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30
ROAD TO PERDITION
SPY KIDS 2
BIRTHDAY GIRL
K-19:THE WIDOWMAKER

GB1 GREENBELT 1
IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
STORYTELLING EXCLUSIVE 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT. 11-12, 18-19, 25-26

GB3 GREENBELT 3
BIRTHDAY GIRL 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
THE TUXEDO 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30
SPY KIDS 2 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30
K-19: THE WIDOWMAKER 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30
ENOUGH 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
THE TUXEDO
BIRTHDAY GIRL
ENOUGH
K-19: THE WIDOWMAKER
5 SPY KIDS 2

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com *GSCI Guaranteed Seats Cinema

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MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) ENOUGH
2 (SDDS) TUXEDO
3 (DTS) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKI
4 (GOLD)(DTS) TUXEDO
5 (CLUB)(DOLBY) TUXEDO
6 (GOLD)(SDDS) SPY KIDS
7 (GOLD)(DOLBY) BIRTHDAY GIRL
8 PROS
9 BIRTHDAY GIRL
10 SPY KIDS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Maragana CINEMA 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3390 833.2274 551.63
1 PROS
2 TUXEDO
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 SPY KIDS
2 RED BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TUXEDO
5 PROS

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285
1 SPY KIDS
2 RED BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL
3 PROSTI
4 TUXEDO
5 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
6 BIRTHDAY GIRL
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
TUXEDO
OCTOBER 2, TO 4, SCREENING TIME : 5:45, 7:55, 10:05 PM.
OCTOBER 5, & 6 . SCREENING TIME :3.35, 5:45, 7:55 PM.
BLOODWORK
OPENS OCT. 9, 2002
STARRING CLINT EASWOOD

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 HIGH RISK
2 UNFAITHFUL

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.0588
1 (SDDS) TUXEDO
4 PROSTI
5 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
6 BIRTHDAY GIRL
7 (DTS) ENOUGH
8 (SDDS) SPY KIDS-2
9 (DOLBY) TUXEDO

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7920
1 ENOUGH
2 PROSTI
3 PROSTI
4 (SDDS) TUXEDO
5 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
6 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
7 (DTS) SPY KIDS 2
8 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
9 TUKAAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
5 (SDDS) TUXEDO
6 (DTS) TUXEDO
7 (DOLBY) PROSTI
8 SPY KIDS-2

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 TUXEDO
2 BIRTHDAY GIRL
3 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
4 PROSTI
5 (SDDS) TUXEDO

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 PROST

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7088
1

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson PROSTI
Lords FRUIT SWELLING
Jennet RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 . 533.3856
1 TUXEDO
2 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
3 PROSTI

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
2 BIRTHDAY GIRL
3 RED BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL
4 PROSTI
5 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029
1 TUXEDO
2 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
1 TUXEDO
2 PROSTI
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 (SDDS) TUXEDO
5 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
6 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
7 ENOUGH

Plaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
1 PROSTI
2 TUXEDO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 . 534.2198
1 PROSTI
2 SPY KIDS-2
3 (DTS) TUXEDO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983
1 PROSTI
2 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
3 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
4 VOODOO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 ENOUGH
2 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS-2
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 PROSTI

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 SPY KIDS-2
3 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TUKAAN
2 SPY KIDS-2
3 (DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
4 (DTS) VOODOO

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS
2 (DOLBY) WIDOWMAKER
3 TUKAAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 K-19 TUXEDO
2 RED BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
2 PROSTI
3 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
4 TUKAAN
5 VOODOO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 TUXEDO
2 PROSTI
3 SPY KIDS-2

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 TUXEDO
2 PROSTI
3 SPY KIDS-2

Mega Center Mall
(044) 463.3283
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233
1 DIVINE SECRET OF YAYA SISTERHOOD
2 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
3 (DTS) REVELATION
4 (DTS) REIGN OF FIRE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

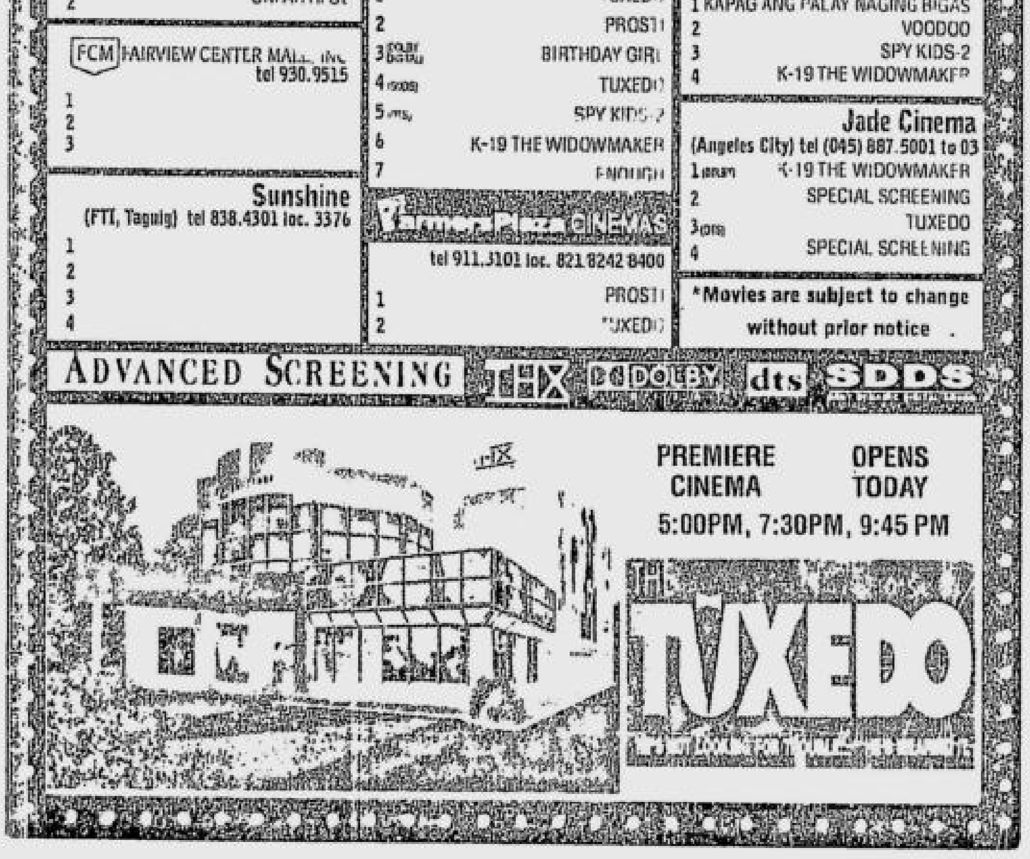
Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING
2 HIGH RISK
3 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
2 VOODOO
3 SPY KIDS-2
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2 SPECIAL SCREENING
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 SPECIAL SCREENING

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA OPENS TODAY
5:00PM, 7:30PM, 9:45 PM

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
2 ENOUGH
3 THE TUXEDO
4 K-19
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 CLOSED
7 PROSTI
8 REVELATION

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 PROSTI
2 K-19
3 THE TUXEDO
RED BLOODED AMERICAN ...
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 REVELATION
7 BIRTHDAY GIRL
8 REIGN OF FIRE
9 ENOUGH
10 VAN WILDER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
2 VAN WILDER
3 REIGN OF FIRE
4 K-19
5 THE TUXEDO
6 PROSTI
7 THE TUXEDO
8 SPY KIDS 2
9 VOODOO
10 ENOUGH
11 REVELATION
RED BLOODED AMERICAN...

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
2 ENOUGH
3 K-19
4 THE TUXEDO
5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 THE TUXEDO
7 VAN WILDER
RED BLOODED AMERICAN...
9 SPY KIDS 2
10 REVELATION
11 ROAD TO PERDITION
12 PROSTI

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 THE TUXEDO
2 K-19
3 ENOUGH
4 THE TUXEDO
5 BIRTHDAY GIRL
6 ROAD TO PERDITION
RED BLOODED AMERICAN...
8 VAN WILDER
9 PROSTI
10 SPY KIDS 2
11 REVELATION
12 REIGN OF FIRE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 REVELATION
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 PROSTI
4 K-19
5 BIRTHDAY GIRL
6 ENOUGH
7 THE TUXEDO
8 SPY KIDS 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 K-19
2 BIRTHDAY GIRL
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 THE TUXEDO
5 VOODOO
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8 THE TUXEDO
9 ENOUGH
RED BLOODED AMERICAN ...

SM CITY CEBU
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7 K-19
8 THE TUXEDO

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7 CLOSED
8 REVELATION

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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5 SPY KIDS 2
6 PROSTI

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 PROSTI
2 SPY KIDS 2
3 THE TUXEDO
4 ENOUGH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 THE TUXEDO
2 PROSTI
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 VOODOO

SM CITY DAVAO
2976990
1 ROAD TO PERDITION
2 THE ROOKIE
3 TUKAAN
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 THE TUXEDO

SM BICUTAN
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SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
633-0976
BIRTHDAY GIRL
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/9:05/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

THE TUXEDO
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/9:05/10:45 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

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CINEMAS

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Galleria 632-9115-16 633-7641 loc. 279
1 TUXEDO 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
2 TUXEDO
3 ENOUGH
4 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
5 PROSTI
6 BIRTHDAY GIRL
7 SIMONE
8 SPY KIDS 2
9 VAN WILDER
10 ROAD TO PERDITION

MATINEE PRICE:P80THX cinema / P65 band cinemas Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536-7809-12
1 TUXEDO
2 SPY KIDS 2
3 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
4 BIRHTDAY GIRL
5 PROSTI
6 ENOUGH
7 TUXEDO

Metro East - Marcos hway 687-8193 / 8280
1 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
2 TUXEDO
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ENOUGH
5 TUXEDO
6 VAN WILDER
7 BIRTHDAY GIRL
8 PROSTI

Novaliches 935-3229-30
1 TUXEDO
2 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
3 PROSTI
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 ENOUGH
6 SPY KIDS 2
7 ROAD TO PERDITION
8 VAN WILDER

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838
1 TUXEDO
2 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
3 PROSTI
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 ENOUGH
6 SPY KIDS 2

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459
1 TUXEDO
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 DIVINE SECRETS OF YAYA SISTERHOOD
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 REVELATION
6 LEFT BEHIND

Iloilo 336-8077-78
1 TUXEDO
2 REIGH OF FIRE
3 RAOD TO PERDITION
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 REVELATION
6 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS...

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875-1927 961-5318 / 5270
1 LEFT BEHIND
2 PROSTI
3 TUXEDO
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5 REVELATION
6 TUXEDO

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

ROAD TO PERDITION

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

BOY ABUNDA'S LATEST FIND

Stardom waiting for Godo

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I WILL never go bold. I'm confident that with my acting alone, I will be recognized."

These are very brave, confident words, coming from a 17-year-old newcomer, Godo Pascual, who has not proven anything except that he is exceptionally goodlooking.

But Godo vows he is working very hard to hone his craft. He has, for one, enrolled in acting workshops conducted by the ABS-CBN Talent Center. He is also willing to go through auditions and to take small roles.

Godo is the newest member of the Backroom company of talents of Boy Abunda. Which is saying a lot, considering the the high standards that Boy is known to set in choosing newcomers to develop.

His perseverance has started to pay off. He recently landed a guest spot in the top-rating, long-running drama anthology "Maalaala Mo Kaya," playing the best friend of young "veteran" Patrick Garcia.

"It was tiring because of the long hours of taping, but I had fun every minute of it," recalls the 5-foot-7 stunner who dreams of becoming a matinee idol.

"I've dreamed of joining the business since I was a kid," he confesses. "I know show biz is worth all the sacrifices I am making now."

Godo has been working double time of late, juggling his time between show biz commitments and his schoolwork. Godo, whose real name is Wilfredo Rubio Pascual, is a BS Marketing sophomore at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila. His family owns an auto shop and a small grocery store in Gagalangin, Tondo.

He says he is also studying hard because he knows he can rely on his college degree in case show biz does not work out for him. "My parents only allowed me to join show biz because I promised never to neglect my studies," he says.

"Backroom is very supportive. They understand that I want to finish my studies so they usually schedule my work in my free time from school."

Godo looks up to drama king Christopher de Leon, "the best in the country today, a great actor."

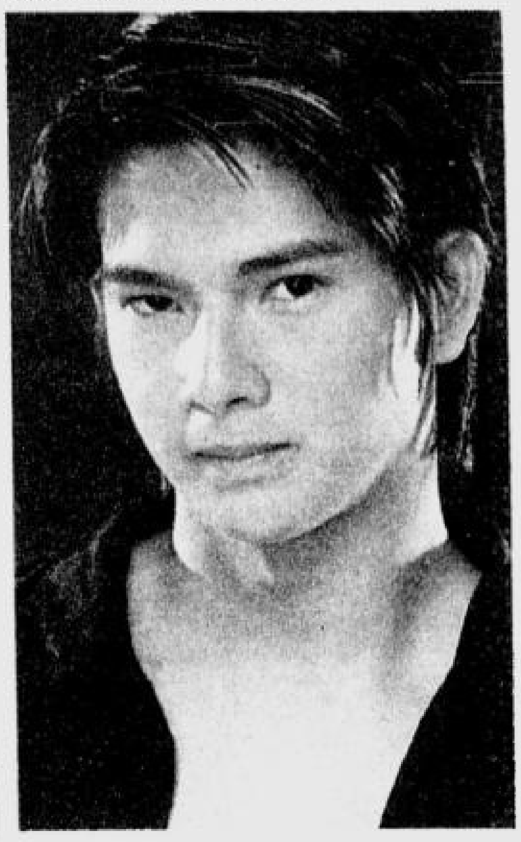
Among his contemporaries, he envies Jericho Rosales for working with stunning partner Kristine Hermosa in the telenovela "Pangako Sa 'Yo."

"I'd like to have a stable career like Jericho someday," Godo says.

He also dreams of becoming a telenovela lead star, with someone like Camille Prats as his partner.

"I met her once and she's very nice," he says of Camille. "Every time I see her in the studio, she's always smiling. She looks friendly and approachable."

This early, it is easy to tell that Godo seems to have what it takes to be a big star, even as big as his fellow Backroom boys Ariel Rivera, Calvin Millado and Dominic Ochoa.



PASCUAL

Annual hair tilt

FIL-HAIR Coop. with Ricky Reyes Beauty Center invite everyone to its annual hair competition, "Hairdresser's Day," Oct. 10, Thursday, at Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Salon owners, professional and aspiring haircutters even students can join the competition. No requirements needed. Buy ticket worth P100 at the entrance of PTTC. The competition will start 7 a.m.

There will be at least six categories for the competition that includes men's and ladies' haircutting, fantasy make-up, bridal hair and make-up.

Winners will receive cash prizes and gift packs from Splash Manufacturing Corporation.

The champion will take home P10,000 and a chance to be the country's representative in an international hair competition sponsored by Fil-Hair.

First runner-up will get P4,000, second runner-up P3,000 and third runner-up P2,000.

Invited guests from different Asian countries like Korea, Japan, Taipei, Thailand and Hong Kong will judge the competition.

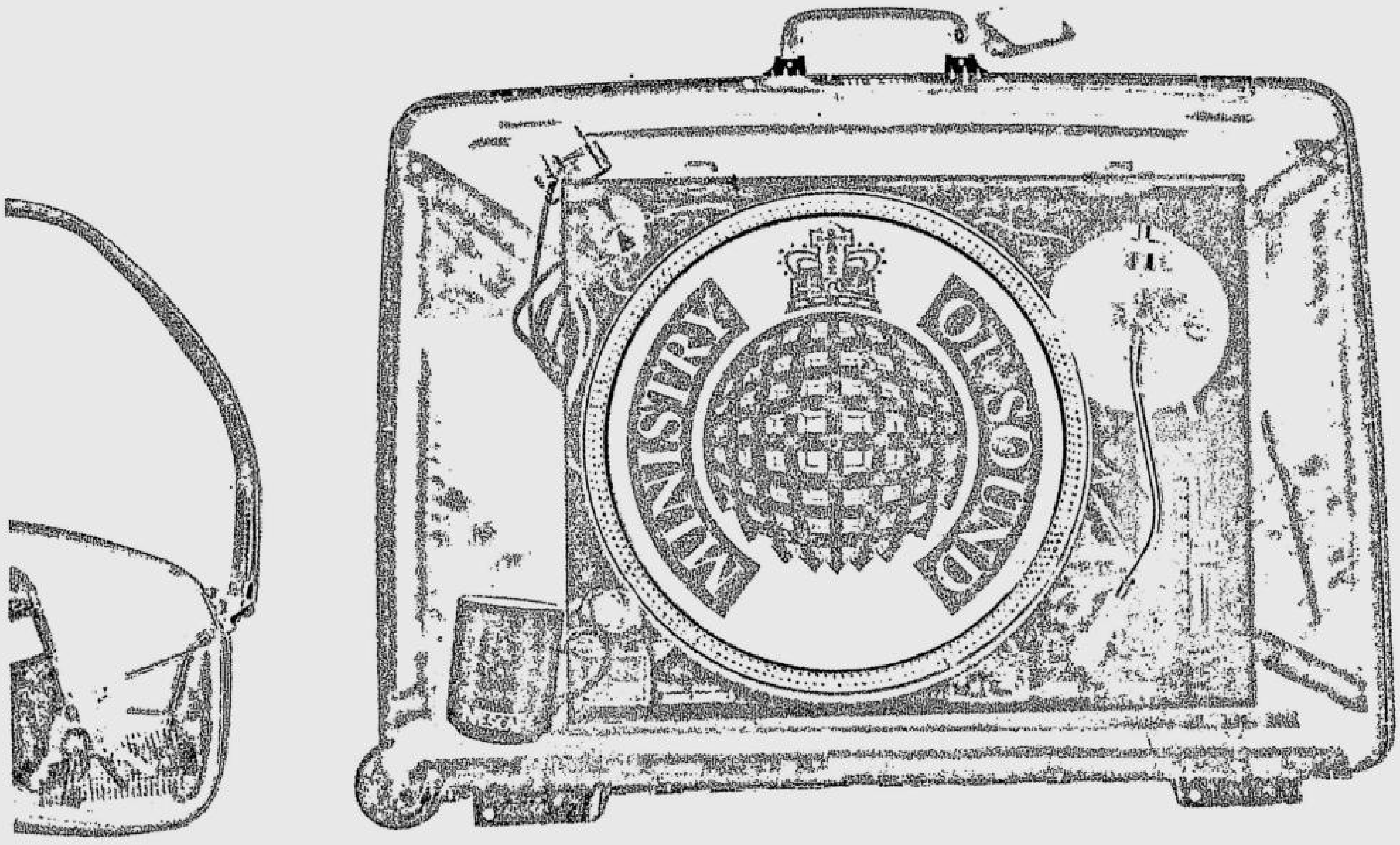
Those who are interested to join the contest or witness the event can buy tickets at PTTC or call at RRBC office at 725-4959 and 725-1880 for details.

Choral recital

MICHAEL Tippett's "Five Spirituals from a Child of Our Time" highlights an all-sacred choral recital, Oct. 10, Thursday, 7 p.m. at the Church of the Risen Lord, J.P. Laurel st., UP Diliman, Quezon City.

Performing in the choral event are the combined voices of the Ateneo College Glee Club, the UP Staff Choral Society, the Dilaab Music Ministry and the Novo Concertante Manila, to be conducted by Chris M. Reyes.

Admission is free.



MINISTRY OF SOUND
NESCAFÉ GLOBAL TOUR
Manila
NBC Tent
Bonifacio Global City
Saturday 5th October
Andy Morris (N.Thrust- 'Safe From Harm')
TC (Big Fish)
BIGFISH HUMAN* SONY PUMA SMART STAGE CRAFT INTERNATIONAL INC. MTV
NESCAFÉ Masarap na simula www.nescafelive.com
1st 500 party-goers get a free MOS CD. Tickets available in & . Tickets cost P400 each. MOS CD's to be won on the night of the event!

Lea wins nomination for best ...

From page A36

wittiest comedian/writers.

In our story of Salonga's stint as co-host for the INQUIRER (December 3, 2001), we wrote: "At next year's Ovation Awards, she (Lea) may figure prominently again—this time as a nominee for best lead actress in a musical for 'Flower Drum Song.'"

Salonga, replying by e-mail to our question on how the Ovation Awards nomination will inspire her performance in "Flower Drum Song" on Broadway, told us: "It does make me feel wonderful. However, we do our work not for the awards, nor do the awards fuel us. But it's really, really cool."

Asked if she would be able to attend the Ovation Awards show on Nov. 24, the Tony Award-winning pride of the Philippines answered, "Unfortunately, no—at least I don't think so. The Broadway run would have just begun, so we're all going to have to designate representatives in case any of us wins."

Established in 1989, the Ovation Awards is the only peer-judged competitive awards for the stage arts in LA.

"Flower Drum Song" also earned the following nominations: best musical (larger theaters category); director, musical, Robert Longbottom; featured actress, musical, Jodi Long and Sandra Allen; choreographer, Longbottom; costume design (larger theaters category), Gregg Barnes; and sound design (larger theaters), Jon Gottlieb and Philip G. Allen.

On the progress of the preview performances, Salonga informed us: "Opening night is a couple of weeks away still. I feel that we have made excellent progress in the development of the show, but the creative people feel that there is still work to be done."

Salonga, a BMG (Pilipinas) Records artist whose Broadway-themed live concert CDs best capture her musical theater-perfect voice and persona, commented on how her experience on the "Flower Drum Song" in LA and New York will be different: "Well, the show has evolved from its production in Los Angeles. As for the experience, I had a wonderful time at the Taper and made many friends there, and I foresee the same here."

Salonga's Ovation Awards hosting stint last year was memorable because she and Robert Chien made their first public appearance together in the event.

She introduced us to Chien, who is now her fiance, and allowed my wife and fellow INQUIRER contributing writer and photographer Janet R. Nepales to take the first media pictures of the couple.

This year's Ovation Awards will be held at the Orpheum, a majestic recently-restored movie palace in downtown Los Angeles.

"Flower Drum Song" and three other shows tied for eight nominations. One of these shows is "Into the Woods," another revival by the Mark Taper Forum which staged "Flower Drum Song."

"Big River," a sign-language-enriched musical which will be restaged by the Mark Taper Forum this year, won the most Ovation Award nominations, with 11.

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But the dream turns into a nightmare when Mitch becomes unfaithful, and starts abusing her physically and emotionally. He expects her to accept his beating and cheating. "I'm the man," Slim's husband declares. "I work and bring home the money, so I make the rules."

Slim has had enough. With her friend Ginny's (JULIETTE LEWIS) help, she escapes with Gracie. Pursued by an increasingly dangerous husband, she prepares to fight back with all her might.

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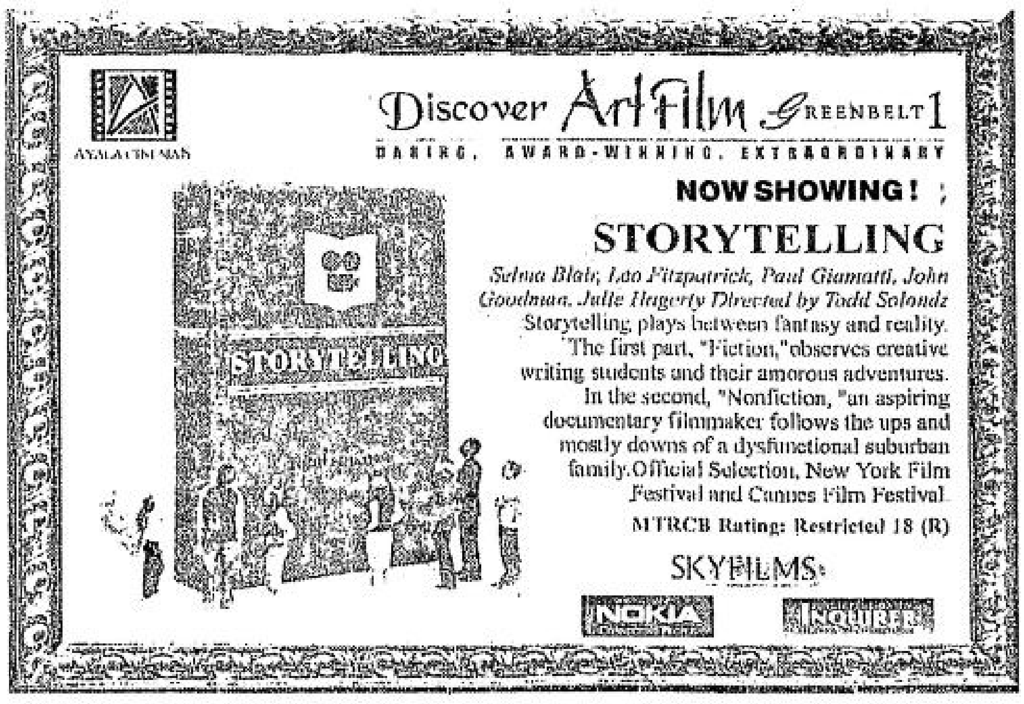
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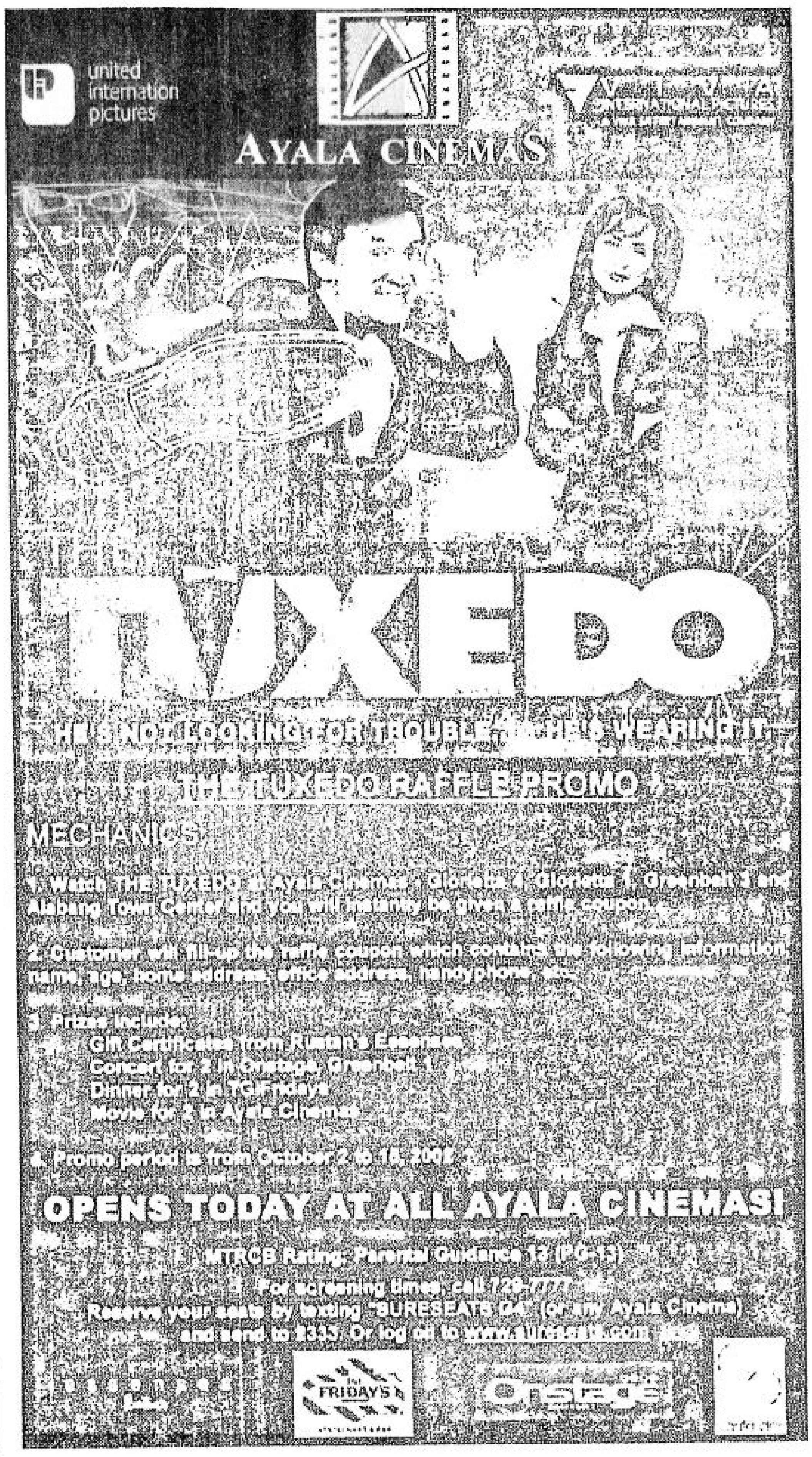
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Husband from hell

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

JENNIFER Lopez's latest film, "Enough," casts her as a young woman who marries the man of her dreams—who later turns out to be her worst nightmare. The husband from hell loves their daughter but treats his wife like dirt, expecting her to accept the fact that he continues to dally with other women on the side.

When she protests, he beats her up. Fearful for her life, Lopez runs away with her daughter, but her cruel but brilliantly devious husband is always able to find out where she is.

Lopez keeps running like a scared rabbit until her daughter is adversely affected by all the stress and terror. That's when she decides to fight her sadistic husband on his own terms. She trains hard in physical defense—and offense—and transforms her hitherto weak, and meek self into a fighting machine.

Thus do "Enough" and its denouement epitomize the New Woman who refuses to be men's punching bag, and learns how to give as fiercely as she used to take.

Well and good, but the film's feminist message is rendered occasionally hortatory by some improbable storytelling devices. For example, the way the female protagonist prepares the scene of her final confrontation with her husband is so slick and techno-savvy that she comes off, not so much as an aggrieved wife, but as a female secret agent preparing to trap an international terrorist.

This slickness robs the film of some credibility. In addition, the storytelling is too slow and is occasionally repetitive, as Lopez is shown doing pretty much the same things in each part of the States that she hides in.

But these low points are compensated for in part by the film's scarifying scenes of flight and near-capture. Also, this movie is to be credited for dealing with the battered wife syndrome, and what female victims can do to protect themselves, or to seek redress.

Up to the point when she transforms herself practically into a female **James Bond**, Lopez is believable and even compelling as the battered wife who no longer wants to put up with her husband's cruelty. The child actress who plays her daughter is confident, personable and empathetic.

On the whole, however, the performance in this movie are as self-conscious as its plotting and denouement. Lopez's husband comes off as too unrelievedly evil to become the complex character he needs to be to make this movie a genuinely compelling psycho-thriller.

Movies on TV

ON THE HBO channel, some promising movies are showing this week: On Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 6:30 a.m., "Gorillas in the Mist: The Story of Dian Fossey." 2 p.m., "I Dreamed of Africa: A True Story." 7:15 p.m., "It Could Happen to You."

Thursday, Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m., "Muppets from Space." 12 noon, "The Addams Family." 12:35 a.m., "Frankie and Johnny."

Friday, Oct. 4 at 6 a.m., "The Color of Love: Jacey's Story." 7:45 a.m., "28 days."

Saturday, Oct. 5 at 11:30 a.m., "Wayne's World." 1:15 p.m., "The Hunt for Red October." 10:30 p.m., "Ghost."

Sunday, Oct. 6 at 9:30 a.m., "Dick."

On the Cinemax channel: Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 6:45 p.m., "James Dean."

Thursday, Oct. 3 at 11:30 a.m., "Project Greenlight 12: 51/49." 2 p.m., "It Happened One Night," 5:30 p.m., "The Secret of My Success." 7:30 p.m., "The Flying Dutchman."

Friday, Oct. 4 at 8 a.m., "Paint Your Wagon."

Saturday, Oct. 5 at 6:15 p.m., "The Screaming Room: The 10 Scariest Films Ever Made."

Sunday, Oct. 6 at 3:30 a.m., "The Other Woman."

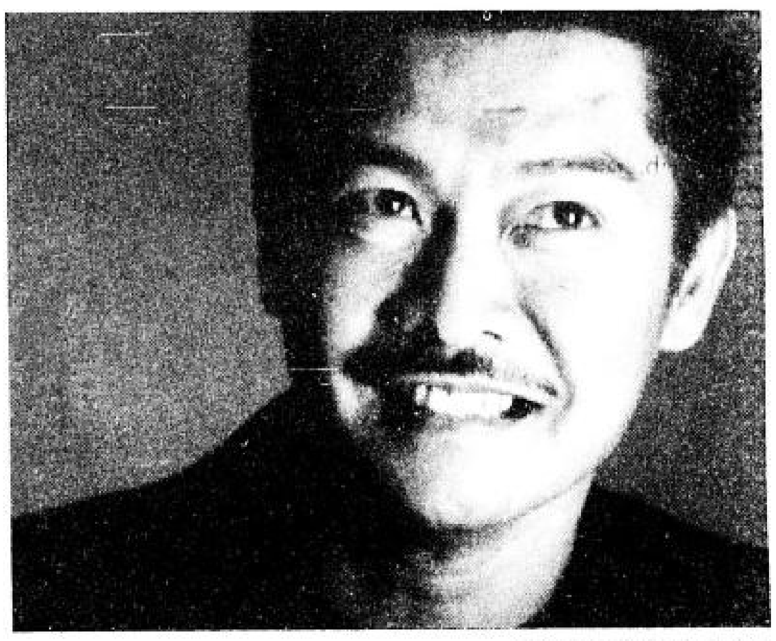
'Sweet Home Alabama'

AFTER "Legally Blonde" was shown here, **Reese Witherspoon**'s local fan base increased considerably. That's why the imminent showing here of her new starrer, "Sweet Home Alabama," is being eagerly anticipated.

This time around, the spunky actress plays a New York fashion designer who is engaged to the city's most eligible secrets. But her past holds many secrets, including the redneck husband she married in high school, who refuses to divorce her.

What will she do? She sneaks back home to Alabama to confront her past, only to discover that cutting her ties to her unsophisticated past isn't going to be as easy as she thought it would be.

Thus, the film's tag line: "Sweet Home Alabama" is about a woman in romantic distress, who must choose between the man she loves, and the man she wants to love."



DAVID. For his kabalen

Pampanga concerts

FRESH from his North American road show with Department of Tourism's Wow campaign, seasoned performer and songwriter Mon David returns to the local concert circuit with a musical treat for his kabalen in "Sabadung Bengui Quing Patria's with Mon David," a series of concerts on all Saturdays of October in one of Pampanga's leading bar-restaurants, Patria's.

Showcasing Mon David's multi-faceted musical talent through a diverse repertoire of jazz, pop, R&B, world music and classic Kapampangan songs, the concert series also features international pianist Toti Fuentes and sax player and keyboardist, Noel Lopez (himself a Kapampangan).

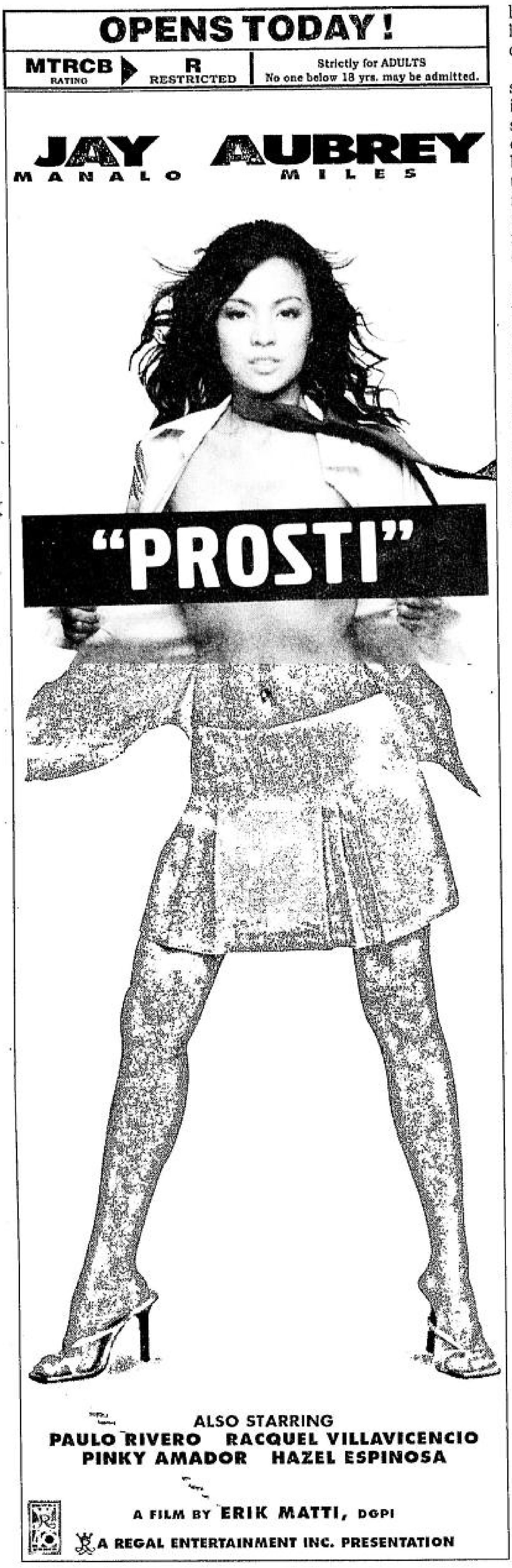
Known for his unique, spontaneous and soulful style in music, Mon David once again weaves magic in this concert series with his reinvention of such pop classics as "When I Look in Your Eyes," "Overjoyed," "Someone To Watch Over Me," "Alfie," "Here, There and Everywhere," plus choice cuts from his CD "Soulitude."

Showdates are Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Showtime is 8 p.m. The show is a benefit for the new musical theater group, Arti Santa Rita.

Patria's is located in San Fernando, Pampanga. For ticket reservations, call (056) 961-3900 or (045) 9637434.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ONE NIGHT STAND / DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
ODEON	TUXEDO
ODEON-2	JASON X / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MURDER BY NUMBERS / DOG SOLDIERS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR	TUXEDO
REMAR-2	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PROSTI
B	TUXEDO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ENOUGH
CINEMA-2	CINE EUROPA 5
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-6	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-8	VOODOO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	K19 WIDOWMAKER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-12	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-14	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-15	REVELATION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	SIMUNE
CINEMA 2	ORANGE COUNTY (WED)SPIRIT (SAT)
CINEMA 3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA 4	BOURNE IDENTITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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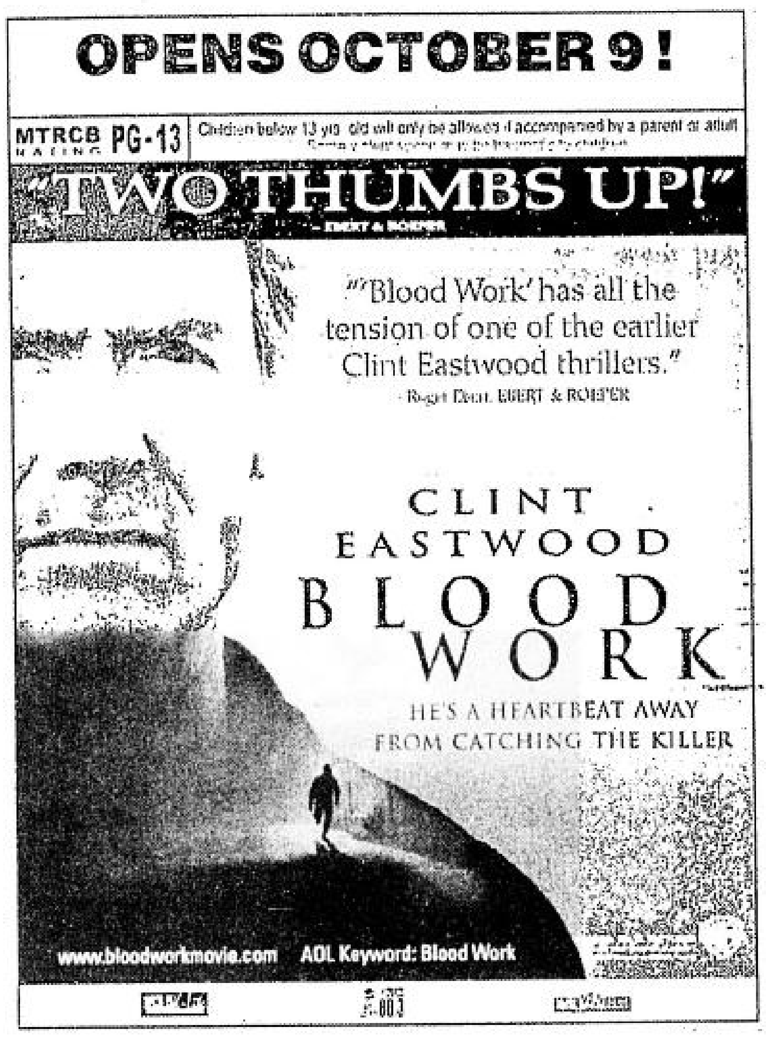

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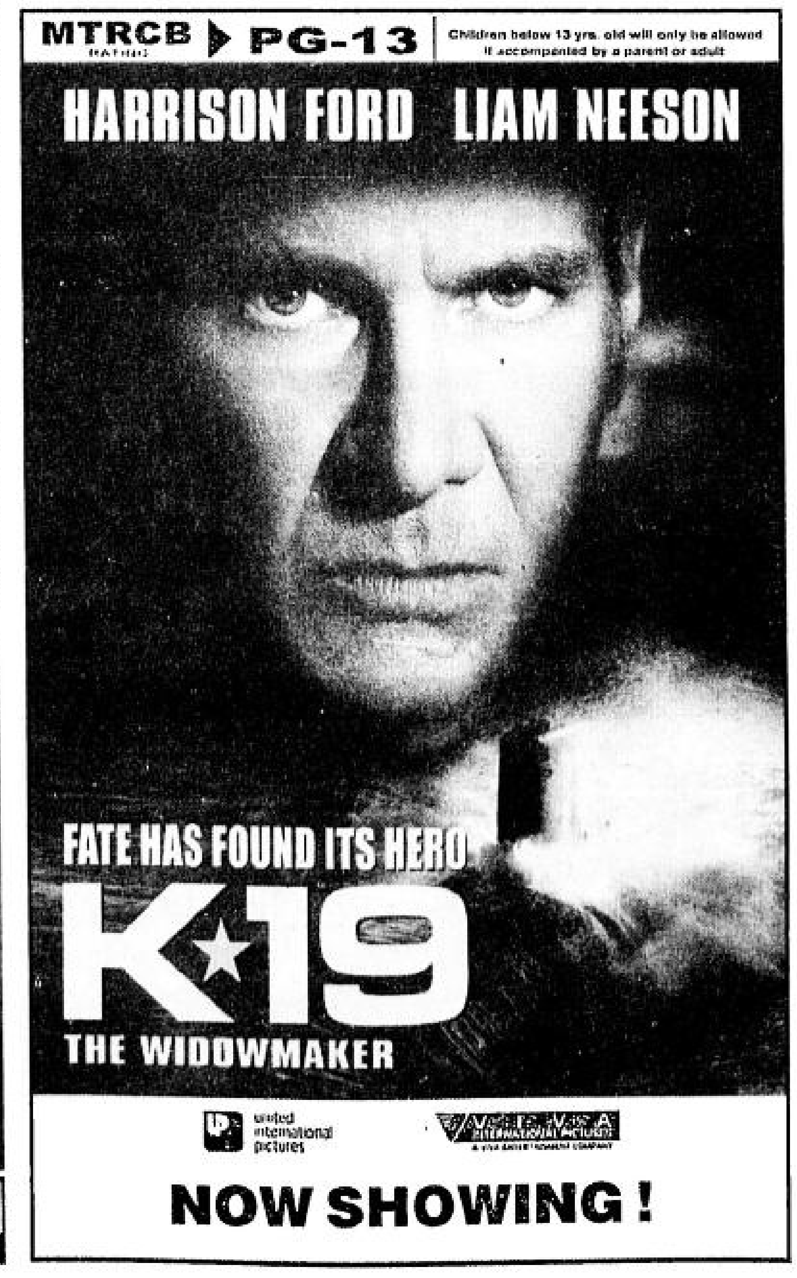

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Oct 6, 3:30 pm - SM Bacoor
Oct 6, 4:30 pm - SM Southmall
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Lea wins nomination for best actress in LA

By Ruben V. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—'Oh, wow, this is the first time I heard of the nominations. Thanks for telling me! I'm really excited about it!" reacted Lea Salonga when we informed her that she has been nominated for best lead actress in a musical in the Ovation Awards.

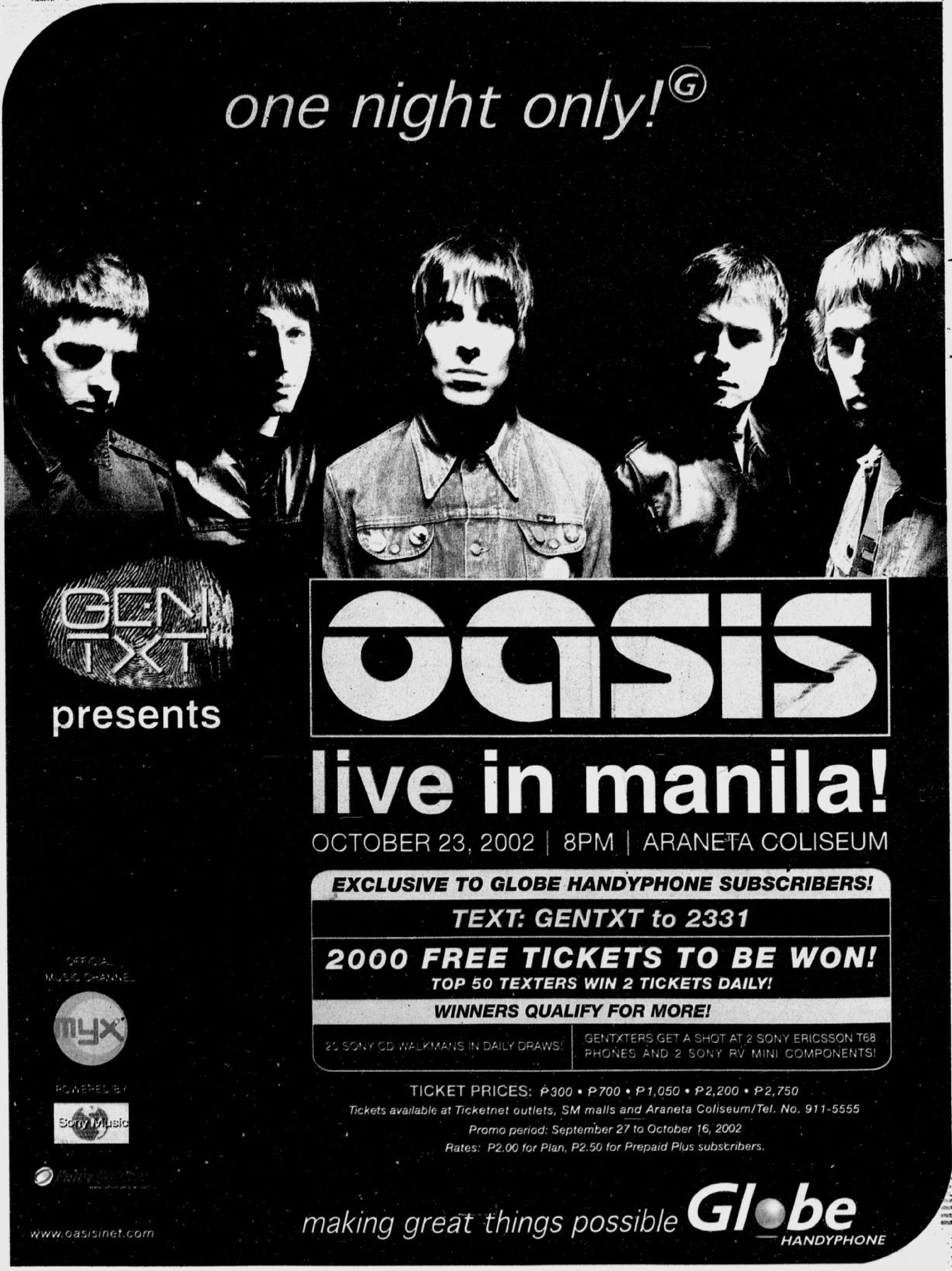
The biggest theater awards event in Los Angeles, Ovation Awards gave eight nominations to "Flower Drum Song," including Salonga's nomination. The musical, revived last year, was a hit with the critics and audiences at Los Angeles' Mark Taper Forum. The show's successful run encouraged a move to Broadway, where preview performances are ongoing.

Salonga co-hosted the Ovation Awards last year with Bruce Vilanch, the award-winning writer of the Oscar Awards show and one of Hollywood's most prolific and

LEA/ A34

SALONGA. As Mei-li in "Flower Drum Song"

AP



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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Philip Morris, La Suerte end 47-yr marketing deal** *Page B2*
- **Industries seek up to 1-year delay in RP entry into Afta** *Page B4*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

BUSINESS

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IFC eyes RP banks' bad loans, assets

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE WORLD Bank's investment unit has informed the country's economic managers that it was interested in putting up a special purpose asset vehicle to take out portion of the Philippine banking sector's close to P500 billion in bad loans and assets.

In a teleconference, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters that he had met with top officials of the International Finance Corp. while in New York.

The IFC gave its assurance that it would continue investing heavily in the Philippines, he disclosed.

"The IFC said it is interested in participating in the SPAV (project) once we have the law in place," Camacho said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in the same teleconference that he had met with officials of US investment firm Lehman Brothers, which also assured that it was still committed to investing at least $1 billion to help ease the Philippine banking system's problems with bad loans and assets.

"Lehman said it was still ready to come in, and they asked us when the law on SPAV would be passed. I am sure Cerberus (Ltd.) is also still interested," Buenaventura said.

He said he was hopeful that a compromise would be reached by different groups with varied interests in a law providing incentives for banks that would create units to dispose of their bad loans and assets.

"There seems to be a way to satisfy everybody, a formula acceptable to all," Buenaventura said.

Camacho, the finance secretary, said the IFC was also interested in investing in the so-called tier-two capital of banks.

A tier-two capital is a borrowing that may be converted into equity upon maturity.

"I encouraged them to do more of what they did in Banco de Oro (Universal Bank), to be more aggressive in-investing in the banking system, so we could facilitate more consolidation in the industry," Camacho said.

Apart from the tier-two investment, the IFC and Banco de Oro, a bank controlled by retail tycoon

IFC/B2

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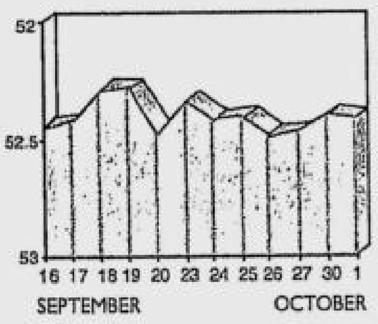

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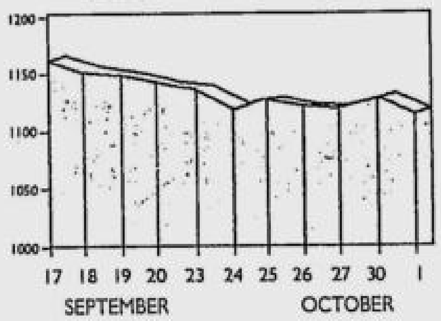
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

LOCAL share prices fell 1.2 percent on Tuesday due to profit-taking and fears that losses in the US and Europe may hit developing economies, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 13.56 points to 1,115.78 points.

"Investors took profits after yesterday's gains amid concerns over the weakness of global equities markets led by the United States," said Lawrence de Leon of KGI Securities Inc.

"There are worries the weakness of major economies could drag down the emerging economies," de Leon said. *AFP*

Jan-June foreign investments up 40%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II yesterday said foreign direct investments in the country surged by 40 percent in the first half of the year due to strong inflows from Japan and Taiwan.

Records show that the total FDIs registered with the Board of Investments, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Clark Development Corp. from January to June this year reached P31.334 billion, up from P22.438 billion in the same period last year.

The top performer was CDC whose FDI haul soared to P13.661 billion in the first six months this year from P578.8 million in the same period last year. The other agencies reported mixed results - Peza with P12.894 billion (down 19 percent); BOI with P4.504 billion (down 24 percent), and SBMA with P274.1 million (up 770 percent).

Roxas claimed that the bulk of investments came from investors from Taiwan and Japan where the government undertook investment promotion activities.

Roxas said Taiwanese investors pumped in P12 billion while the Japanese investors poured in P10.5 billion mostly in the second quarter this year. Roxas did not provide a breakdown of these investments.

Roxas said the surge in Taiwanese investments was a result of the government's aggressive investment promotion program in Taipeh. He said Japan investors continue to hold the Philippines in high esteem and that the government should ensure that the country remains competitive with its neighbors.

He said most of the investments made were in the manufacturing sector, transportation, telecommunication, power generation and trade.

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World Bank offers to open credit facility for RP

THE WORLD Bank has offered to open a standby credit facility worth hundreds of millions of dollars for the Philippines to help the government meet its financing requirements next year.

In a teleconference with reporters Monday night, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who is scheduled to arrive from an International Monetary Fund meeting in New York today, said the World Bank had offered to extend a guaranteed loan facility to the Philippines.

"I believe we can avail ourselves of several hundreds of millions of dollars from such a facility in the future. As of now, however, we still have access to the financial markets and I think we do not need it at this point," said the finance secretary.

Camacho noted that the new World Bank facility would be "over and above" the $400-million public finance strengthening loan that the multilateral agency would co-finance with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

While the World Bank facility gives the country another alternative funding source in case of a tightening in the financial markets, many consider it expensive.

The finance secretary said the facility would charge a commitment fee of 0.5 percent yearly starting from the time a standby arrangement is requested, whether or not funds were actually drawn.

This is similar to a program or a project loan where creditors demand a commitment fee of 0.75 percent of the intended borrowing.

"This is not what we need. What we need is a guarantee facility that we can use to bring down the cost of our borrowings," said Camacho.

Even a loan guarantee from the World Bank, which the government sought last year, seems low in Camacho's priorities now.

"We have no particular need to tap these credit enhancement facilities because we have a fairly strong demand for Philippine debt papers and a good access to the credit market," said the finance chief.

Philip Morris, La Suerte end 47-yr marketing deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIP Morris Philippines Inc. said yesterday it would take full control of the distribution and marketing of its Marlboro and Philip Morris brands next year after it decided not to renew its licensing agreement with La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Co., which was set to expire by the end of the year.

La Suerte, which is owned by the Telengtan brothers, has been selling Marlboro and Philip Morris alongside its local house brands since 1955.

Philip Morris public affairs manager Dave Gomez said negotiations with the Telengtan brothers for a possible joint venture in the past few years broke down.

The decision not to renew La Suerte's contract was mutually agreed upon by both parties, Gomez said.

Philip Morris offered a 20-percent stake in the joint venture to the Telengtan brothers.

Gomez said Philip Morris offered a minority stake to La Suerte, plus compensation for building up Marlboro and Philip Morris, the country's leading cigarette brands.

Philip Morris is currently looking for other local sales and distribution company to take over the void left by La Suerte, according to Gomez.

"We have already received firm offers from several local distributors and we are currently evaluating them," Gomez said.

Philip Morris' takeover of the local distribution and marketing of Marlboro and Philip Morris in the Philippines would coincide with the start of production of its $300 million, state-of-the-art factory in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Philip Morris Philippines managing director George Farah said this was the cigarette giant's biggest investment in Asia and that its factory boasted the latest in environmental protection, quality control and work safety standards.

Farah has urged Congress to pass a national law that would provide strong industry regulation to cover the manufacture, sale and use of tobacco products.

Philip Morris plans to ship out a third of its annual output of 30 billion to 40 billion sticks to other Asean countries where the American firm expects demand to grow significantly in the long term.

The Philippines is the 15th biggest consumer of cigarettes in the world. The tobacco giant is expanding its operations in the region because of the anti-tobacco backlash sweeping the United States and Europe.

UNDP SUPPORT

Manila Bay rehab agreement OKd

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—At least 25 agencies, provincial governments, non-government organizations and business corporations on Tuesday forged an agreement to spearhead the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay area in Central Luzon.

The members of the Manila Bay site coordinating committee include representatives of the San Miguel Corp., Trust International Paper Corp. and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

The Global Environment Facility of the United Nations Development Program is supporting the project.

The bay had been polluted by the "indiscriminate disposal of toxic waste and solid waste from coastal and inland areas," Leonardo Sibbaluca, Central Luzon director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said.

The antiquated approach to sewage and sewerage has also "increased the coliform content of bay waters," he said, which has "threatened the sustainability of the life support system of the bay."

Environment Undersecretary Manuel Sanchez stressed the need to combine the cleanup initiative with livelihood assistance to poor fishing families who resort to dynamite fishing and other harmful ways of catching marine resources.

Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman said the Bataan Coastal Care Foundation, comprised of 14 companies, had begun the same initiatives three years ago and had mobilized some 60,000 volunteers.

He said coastal resource management was a complicated process, noting the conflicting sea uses by various stakeholders.

Pampanga Rep. Zenaida Cruz-Ducut, vice chair of the House committee on environment, emphasized the need for the "active and substantial participation of the public and private sector."

"The essence of sustainable development is in the harmonious integration of a sound and viable economy, responsible governance, social cohesion, harmony and ecological integrity to ensure that development is a life enhancing process," Ducut said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

LPG sphere dismantling starts; supply assured

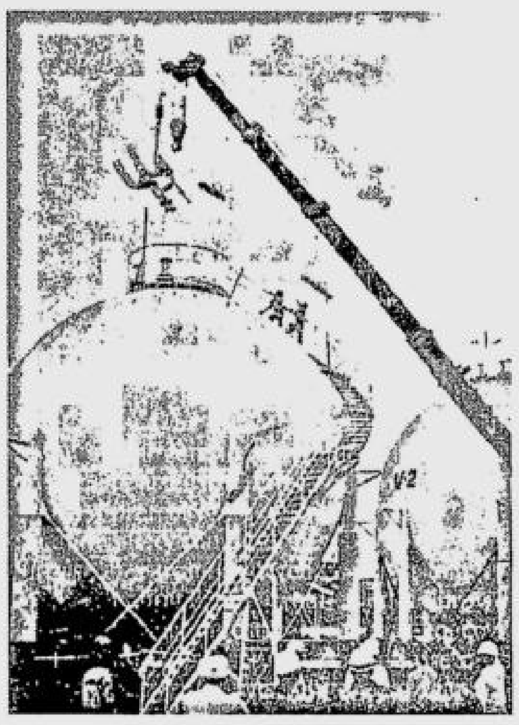
PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. has commenced steel cutting of its two LPG spherical tanks at the Pandacan installation, and is expecting to be one-third compliant by the end of the month with its commitment to decommission six fuel storage tanks.

"We would like to assure the public that while we progress toward full compliance, effort is being exerted to maintain normal supply availability of both LPG and other affected oil products," Shell spokesperson and general manager for external affairs Roberto Kanapi said.

The removal of six fuel storage tanks is in conformity with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with the Department of Energy and the City of Manila last June to provide an increased green buffer zone around the installation area.

The MoU calls for the gradual scaledown of the Pandacan terminals operated by the three oil companies and the immediate decommissioning and removal of a total of 28 storage tanks, six of which belong to Shell, another six to Caltex and the remaining with Petron.

The signatories to the MoU also agreed that the scaling down of the Pandacan terminals was in line with the city government's intent to promote sound urban planning and ensure the health, public safety and the general welfare of the residents of Pandacan and Sta. Ana, Manila, and the adjoining areas, while at the same time, assuring the security and reliability of supply of petroleum products.



PORTION of the Pandacan facility to be dismantled.

The two LPG spheres being cut up have a combined storage capacity of 800 metric tons.

In addition to the storage tanks, a two-floor building currently stands within the designated green buffer zone. Shell distribution manager for NCR Oscar dela Cruz said that this building is likewise being scheduled for demolition by the end of the year.

Araneta starts construction of P2-B 'Gateway Mall'

ARANETA Center formally started the construction of a P2-billion shopping mall in Quezon City with a groundbreaking ceremony yesterday.

The "Gateway Mall" is in line with the Araneta Center's vision of becoming the commercial and business district of Quezon City. It will have 100,000 square meters of gross floor area with five levels occupied by an estimated 170 food and retail stores. Focusing on providing the best in entertainment, Gateway Mall will also have a Cineplex with 10 movie theaters with a centralized ticketing facility.

Integrated atop the shopping mall will be a seven-story office tower, which Araneta Center calls "cyber offices." It will be equipped with advanced telecom facilities and broadband technology. These will be designed to meet the unique requirements of modern-day entrepreneurs engaged in the business of information technology.

Gateway's direct connection to the LRT 2 and MRT 3 will make it accessible to those coming from Aurora Boulevard, the main highway of Edsa, Rizal and Marikina.

The Gateway is part of an ambitious 20-year materplan to transform Araneta Center into a prime business and retail complex that will compete with similar developments in Ortigas and Makati.

In 2000, Araneta Center set into motion the first phase of the masterplan with the renovation of Araneta Coliseum and Farmers Plaza. The first phase is a 600,000-square-meters development concept that includes the Gateway Mall and its surrounding offices and entertainment facilities. Add it to the existing retail space of the present Araneta Center, and you have the largest shopping center complex in the world at 972,000 square meters, according to consulting firm RTKL International Ltd. from the United States, one of the eight foreign consultants of the project.

IFC eyes RP banks' . . .

From page B1

Henry Sy, also have an arrangement to give small and medium borrowers better access to financing.

In another development, Banco de Oro reported that it had lent over P8 billion to small and medium-size enterprises through this facility.

More than a third of the borrowers were involved in manufacturing, another third in wholesale and retail, as well as motor vehicle repair, it said.

The bank said the rest of the borrowers came from agriculture, fishing, education, transportation, storage, real estate and financial services.

As most of the borrowers were from Luzon, the bank said it would expand its SME lending facility to the Visayas and Mindanao.

Last year, it opened a regional office in the Visayas. It is set to open another unit in Cagayan de Oro in November.

The bank said SME borrowers could enhance their credit by tapping state-owned facilities, like the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp., Trade and Investment Development Corp. of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines and the Social Security System.

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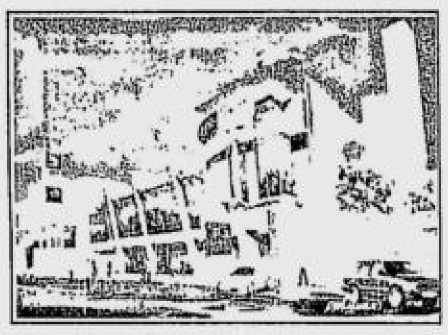

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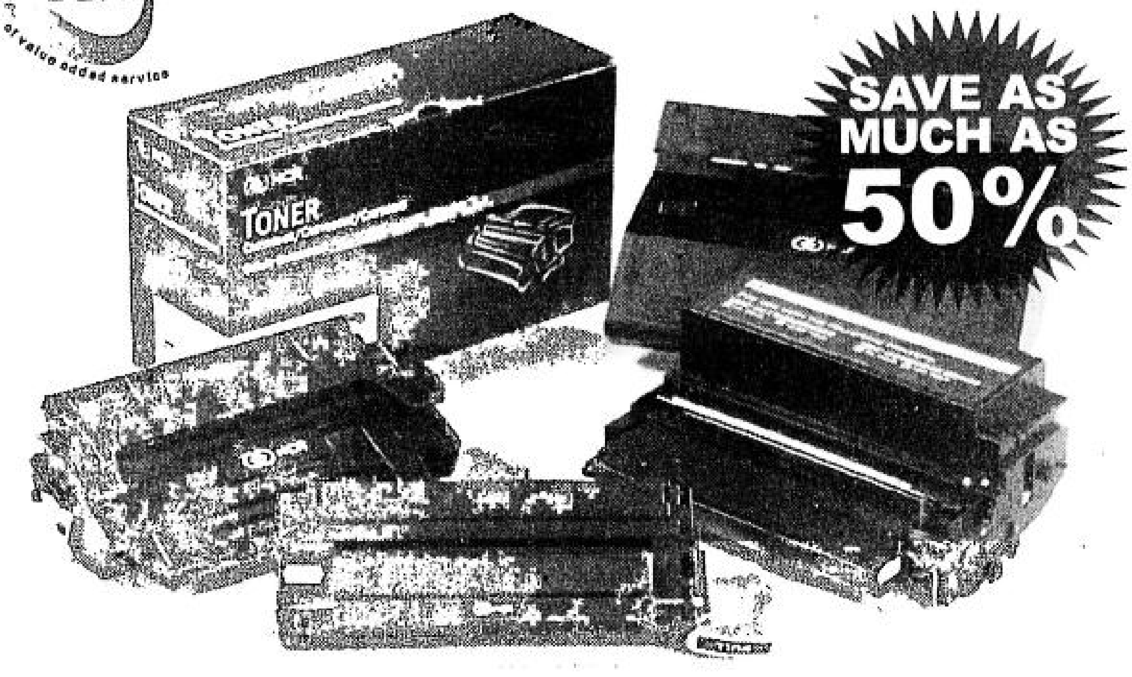

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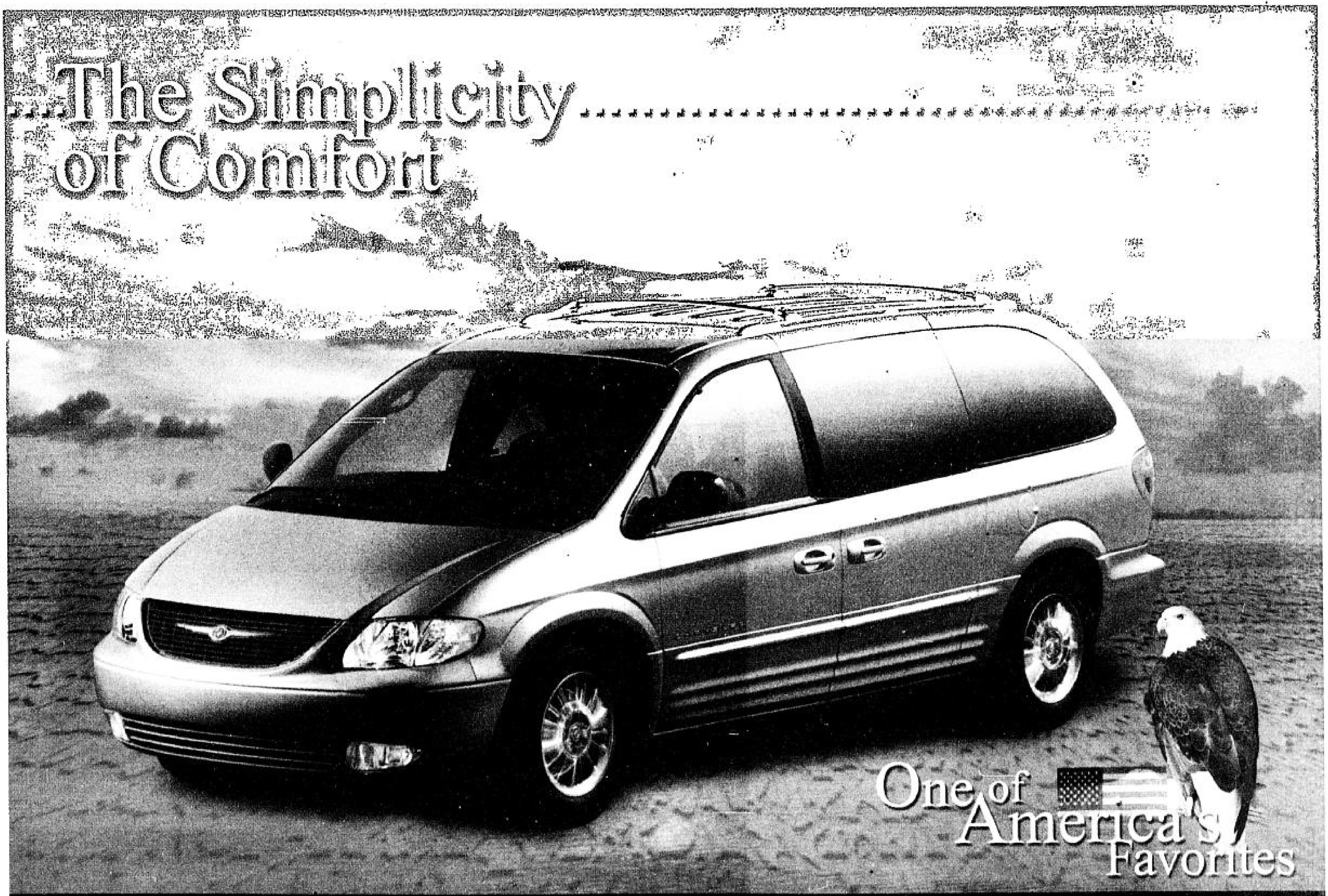

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Industries seek up to 1-year delay in RP entry into Afta

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THREE months before the start of a single Asean market, businessmen are pleading for a delay in the Philippines' entry into the Asean Free Trade Area by six to 12 months to sort out a late barrage of petitions for tariff cut exemption triggered by President Macapagal-Arroyo's perceived about-face in the government's trade liberalization policy.

Raul Concepcion, convenor of the Alliance of Concerned Downstream Industries, said a postponement of the Philippines' entry into Afta would give the Tariff Commission and the affected industries more time to assess the impact of conflicting tariff petitions.

"The commission's task has become more difficult and complex because some industries want tariffs increased, while others want tariffs reduced, and some want tariffs frozen," Concepcion said.

Concepcion noted that the Tariff Commission has been inundated with various industry positions after Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II informed other Asean members of the Philippines' intent to invoke an Afta rule that allows a member-country to delay the liberalization of certain industries facing difficulties adjusting to a free market.

Although the petrochemical industry has been tagged as the main beneficiary of the delay, Roxas hinted that the government might consider other industries for exemption.

Concepcion said he was supporting Tariff Commission chair Edgardo Abon's call for the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters committee to make a clear policy direction on trade liberalization.

"If the government wants to protect upstream industries (makers of basic raw materials), so be it. But they must declare its position explicitly and that they give a fair share to downstream industries (makers of end products)," Concepcion said.

He said downstream industries were worried that rushing the tariff changes would create distortions such as basic materials would have higher duties than the end products. Concepcion said that should government raise duties or maintain duties on basic materials, end products must be slapped with tariffs that were at least 5 percent higher.

Concepcion said the change in the policy made by the President, that is slowing down tariff cuts and reviewing the government's tariff reduction program on upstream industries (steel, aluminum, pulp and paper, and petrochemicals)—has changed the complexion of the tariff reduction programs both under the Asean's Common Effective Preferential Tariff and the World Trade Organization's Most Favored Nation scheme.

Mirant's local units top list of moneymakers

By Elena R. Torrijos

THREE local units of US-based energy giant Mirant Corp. were the top three money-makers in the country last year, according to data from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mirant (Philippines) Corp. was last year's most profitable company, netting some P11.57 billion. Mirant Pagbilao Corp. was No. 2, with P7.8 billion, followed by Mirant Sual Corp., with P6.651 billion.

Food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. came in fourth place, with profits of P6.468 billion, while Ayala-controlled Bank of the Philippines Islands earned some P5.25 billion to land in fifth place.

First Gas Power Corp. and First Gas Holdings Corp., both controlled by the Lopez family, were sixth and seventh, with P4.9 billion and P4.862 billion in net earnings.

Citibank NA's Philippine branch reported P4.612 billion in profits for eighth place.

The last two slots in the top 10 were occupied by mobile telecom firms Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc., with P4.3 bilion and P3.8 billion iin profits, respectively.

The No. 1 company in terms of sales last year was Manila Electric Co. with P130.726 billion

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. came in second place with P96 billion, while Petron Corp. came in third with P88.54 billion.

Texas Instruments Philippines registered P81 billion in sales, while Fujitsu Computer Produs Corp. of the Philippines came in with P58 billion.

Caltex (Philippines) Inc. had P58.29 billion. Toshiba had P53.9 billion; Nestle Philippines Inc., P48.53 billion; Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., P46 billion; and, Wistron Infocomm Corp., P42 billion.

Concepcion sees P0.62/liter oil price hike

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMER welfare advocate Raul Concepcion said yesterday he expected local petroleum prices to go up by 62 centavos a liter due to anxieties over a possible war in the Middle East.

In a news briefing, Concepcion, chair of advocacy group Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said this figure was based on the formula that the government used when the local oil industry was still regulated.

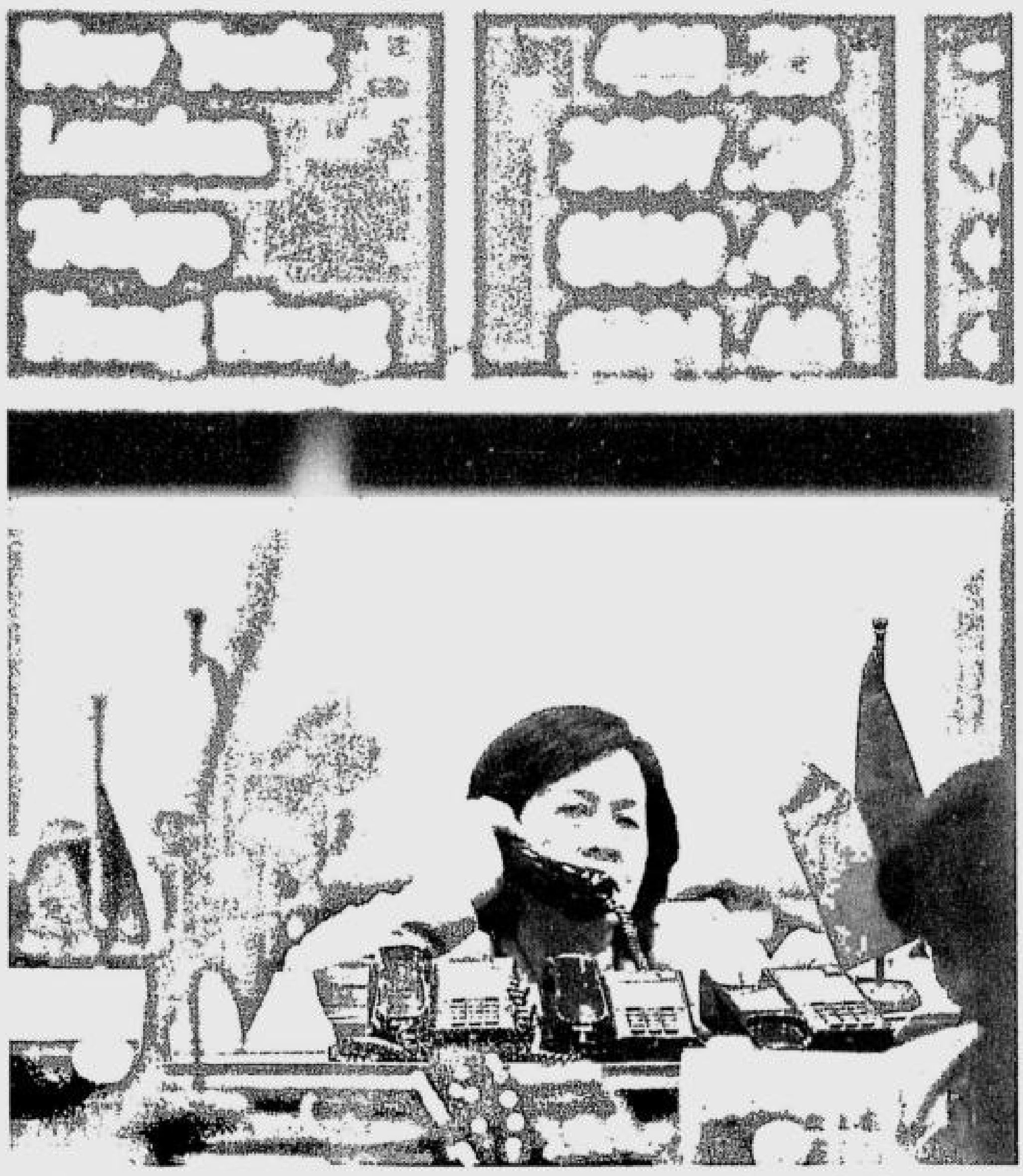
"We will suggest to the oil companies that the price increase be reduced to 59 centavos and staggered in two installments on the (second and fourth week of October)," he said.

Asked why he preferred 59 centavos, Concepcion said it "sounded better" than 62 centavos just as 99 centavos sounded better than a peso.

Fernando Martinez, president of the New Petroleum Players Association of the Philippines, said in an interview that an increase of 60 centavos a liter was "possible for immediate implementation."

Last week, Caltex (Philippines) Inc. said it expected an increase in fuel prices "in the next few days" since world crude prices had been moving up over the past weeks.

Concepcion said his projection considered an average hike of $1.56 a barrel in the price of Dubai crude from $25.24 in August to $26.80 in September.



A TRADER calls just before the Philippine Stock Exchange closes. Shares ended lower yesterday, depressed by new signs of a gaping budget deficit for the first nine months, concerns over a possible war in Iraq, and weakness in global markets. Reuters

US asked to support RP removal from FATF list

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES is worried that the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force may again threaten to slap sanctions to force it to tighten its laws against money laundering.

Faced with this possibility, the Macapagal administration has begun lobbying to convince the United States to support the Philippines' removal from the FATF's list of countries regarded as uncooperative in its efforts against money laundering.

Money laundering is the process of cleaning "dirty" money. The money is dirty in the sense that it comes as proceeds from illegal arms sales, smuggling, drug trafficking, prostitution, embezzlement, insider trading, bribery, computer fraud and other crimes. This is done by either disguising the sources of the earnings, changing their forms, or moving the funds to places where they are less likely to attract attention.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters he has asked US Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill to support the Philippines' bid to be removed from the FATF's watch list.

British firm unloading stake in Chemphil unit

By Doris C. Dumlao

UK-BASED Rhodia Consumer Specialties Pte. is planning to unload its 40-percent stake in Chemphil Albright & Wilson Corp. (CAWC), its joint venture with the Chemical Industries of the Philippines engaged in the detergent phosphates manufacturing business.

In a disclosure yesterday, Chemphil vice president for legal services Rolando Navarro informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that Rhodia offered the stake to Chemphil.

Chemphil's stockholders, however, decided in a meeting on Sept. 26 to waive their right of first refusal over the CAWC shares.

Rhodia's offer was to sell its about 120.54 million shares in CAWC for $3.58 million. No reason was given why the British firm wanted to get out of its joint venture with Chemphil.

Navarro said Chemphil's decision not to exercise its right of first refusal was "premised on Rhodia's offering the same number of shares to third parties at a price and terms of the sale not more favorable than those offered to the company."

Rhodia, formerly Albright & Wilson, is one of the largest chemical companies in the United Kingdom.

In 1980, it purchased 40 percent of Chemphil subsidiary Polyphosphates Inc., which was merged with Chemphil Specialty Chemicals Corp. and renamed CACW.

The joint venture built one of the first phosphoric acid plants in Southeast Asia.

Gov't taps HSBC to raise P10B to cover budget gap

WORRIED about the extent of this year's budget deficit, the government has reportedly tapped HSBC Corp. for a fresh P10-billion loan to be covered by promissory notes that would be sold to local investors.

Persons familiar with the matter said yesterday the government had given HSBC the mandate to start processing the loan.

The government's budget deficit is expected to swell to between P160 billion and P190 billion by year's end.

On Monday, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government could still finance a budget deficit of up to P185 billion this year given its cash position.

Sources said the government chose HSBC's proposal over a joint offer by Equitable PCI Bank Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands, First Metro Investment Corp. and International Exchange Bank, and another proposal from Deutsche Bank and Multinational Investment Bancorporation.

State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines also offered to underwrite some P2 billion worth of borrowings for the government.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, October 1, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.25	19	19.25	20,900
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45	44	44	18,200
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	50
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	50,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	14,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	160,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33.5	32.5	32.5	221,500
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	12.25	11.75	12.25	4,140,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.37	910,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1070	1070	1070	1070	530
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	825	830	825	830	690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	540,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	462.5	462.5	462.5	462.5	840
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.8	32,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	280	282.5	280	280	25,470
Ivantage Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	160,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	15,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	8,800
Manila Electric Co. B	33.5	33.5	32	32.5	225,100
Petron Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	990,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	96,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	945,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	60,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.45	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.6	13,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.75	14	207,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32.5	32	32.5	33,100
RFM Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	365,100
San Miguel Corp. B	58	58	57.5	58	827,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	70,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	45,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	150,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	770,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	550,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	500,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	102,500
Ionics Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	400,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	7,160,000
Music Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	400,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0 31	0.31	0.31	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	12.25	12 25	12 25	12.25	1,900
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.39	880,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0 43	0 43	0.43	50,000
Manila Jockey Club	7	7	7	7	2,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22	21.75	22	41,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	450	450	450	450	800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	541,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,000,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	40,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	430,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	1,870,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	302,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2	2	2	2	60,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	120,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.035	0.035	0.03	0.03	1,500,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	146,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5 7	5.5	5.5	1,589,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	25,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	13,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	20,500,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	204,000,000

NO. OF ADVANCES: 11; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 74; NO. OF TRADES: 813

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of LMG Chemicals Corp. were Antonio Garcia, Ramon Garcia, Eusebio Garcia Jr., Ana Maria Ordoveza, Jose Ma. Ordoveza, Alexandra Garcia, Jose Fernandez Jr., Carmelita Salgado, Jesus Alcordo, Paulus Setiawan, Suwito Tjokro, Jaime Gonzales and Andi Solaiman. Elected independent directors were Glicerio Sicat and Michael Toledo.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Chemical Industries of the Philippines Inc. were Jesus Alcordo, Antonio Garcia, Ramon Garcia, Jose Ma. Ordoveza, Suwito Tjokro, Jaime Gonzales and Glicerio Sicat.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Pryce Corp. were David Go, Antonio Escano, Fernando Trinidad, Rafael Escano, Simeon Umandal, Efren Palma and Salvador Escano.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. announced the promotion of Jorge Payawal from senior vice president to executive vice president.

* * *

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. announced that only stockholders of record as of Oct. 2 could participate in the company's tender offer.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. and its real estate development arm San Miguel Properties Inc. denied they are in talks with any party to bid for Metro Pacific Corp.'s stake in the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

* * *

CENTRAL Azucarera de la Carlota will change its name to CADP Group Corp. as well as its primary purpose from sugar manufacturing to an investment and holding company.

Its annual stockholders' meeting will be on Nov. 20 with record date on Oct. 15. It also announced the appointment of Florencio Mamauag Jr. as compliance officer. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Oct. 1, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.012248	1.000000	52.4100
Japan	Yen	0.008314	0.008213	0.4304
United Kingdom	Pound	1.588319	1.569100	82.2365
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129785	0.128215	6.7197
Switzerland	Franc	0.685759	0.677461	35.5057
Canada	Dollar	0.638240	0.630517	33.0454
Singapore	Dollar	0.569063	0.562177	29.4637
Australia	Dollar	0.549240	0.542594	28.4374
Bahrain	Dinar	2.685222	2.652731	139.0296
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269926	0.266660	13.9757
Brunei	Dollar	0.567721	0.560852	29.3943
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023399	0.023116	1.2115
UAE	Dirham	0.275614	0.272279	14.2701
Korea	Won	0.000831	0.000821	0.0430
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.987900	51.7758
Argentina	Real	0.272110	0.268817	14.0887
Brazil	Real	0.267225	0.263992	13.8358
Denmark	Kroner	0.134617	0.132988	6.9699
India	Rupee	0.020958	0.020704	1.0851
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266417	0.263193	13.7939
Mexico	New Peso	0.099269	0.098068	5.1397
New Zealand	Dollar	0.475346	0.469594	24.6114
Norway	Kroner	0.136772	0.135117	7.0815
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017200	0.016992	0.8906
South Africa	Rand	0.096404	0.095238	4.9914
Sweden	Kroner	0.109174	0.107853	5.6526
Syria	Pound	0.022901	0.022624	1.1857
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029071	0.028719	1.5052
Venezuela	Bolivar	0 000688	0 000680	0 0356

Oil terminal takeover just a contingency–DOE

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy said yesterday a possible takeover of the operations of oil terminals in Subic Bay in Zambales and the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga was only one of the options it was considering as part of contingency plans in the event of a war in the Middle East.

In a news statement, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. clarified that the government offered these facilities as possible location for a regional oil stockpile during the recent 8th International Energy Forum held in Osaka, Japan.

He stressed that there were no immediate plans to "take over" the operations of Subic's and Clark's oil terminals at the moment.

"Oil supply security has been one of the major issues raised during the forum. During the meeting of the energy ministers of the Asean+3 (China, Japan and South Korea) at the sidelines of the energy forum, some of the ministers were advocating that Asean countries, including China, Japan and South Korea, put up their own regional oil stockpile as a buffer for any possible oil supply problems in the future. In response, we offered our Subic and Clark oil terminals as possibilities," he said.

Perez stressed, however, that this plan was still in the preliminary stage.

Further discussions on this matter, he said, would be taken up during the meeting of the Asean+3 heads of states in Cambodia next month.

The energy chief also disclosed that he had begun discussions with Coastal Petroleum, which was awarded in April 1993 a contract to operate Subic's and Clark's oil terminals for 50 years.

Subic's oil terminal can store up to 2.4 million barrels, while Clark has a storage capacity of 386 thousand barrels.

Rise in duty-free imports blamed for budget deficit

IF tariff cuts are continued, pushing the Bureau of Customs to churn out higher revenues will be like "squeezing blood out of stone," Sen. Ralph Recto said yesterday.

Recto said while honesty in government service would result in improved collections, "institutional impediments," such as lower tariff rates, would soon make the customs bureau cease from being a traditional "cash cow" of the government.

Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said the average tariff rate had gone down by more than 300 percent over the last 10 years from an average 19.7 percent in 1992 to 6.1 percent this year.

This, in turn, led to leaner customs collections, he said, with tariff revenues plummeting from $4.73 billion in 1996 to $2.03 billion in 2001.

Some sectors have pointed out that this loss will have more than plugged the government's budget deficit, which is expected to surpass P160 billion in the first nine months of the year, Recto said.

Even this year, the higher share of non-dutiable imports has been blamed for the customs bureau's poor performance.

The bureau missed its six-month target by P11.249 billion, raising only P52.265 billion out of a target of P63.514 billion.

In a report to Congress, the customs bureau said non-dutiable imports now accounted for 60 percent, up from 53 percent last year, of total goods coming in Philippine ports.

As a result, the government waived P7 billion in revenues in the first six months of this year alone, BOC said.

Figures culled from the Tariff Commission showed that tariff revenues in dollar terms steadily dropped after the National Economic and Development Authority implemented the Tariff Reform Program in 1994 that slashed most-favored nation tariffs.

Portuguese Festival starts

THE PORTUGUESE Festival in Manila opened yesterday and would run up to Oct. 25.

Organized by Portuguese authorities and Rustan's Commercial Corp., the event is supported by local and international companies and institutions.

Portuguese Ambassador to the Philippines Joao Caetano da Silva said it would be the first joint Portuguese-Filipino project ever.

For the festival, Rustan's will recreate in its Makati stores a traditional Portuguese Rustic Farm that will display the products to be sold. More than 50 Portuguese companies have their products displayed for sale in this fair including food, wines, fashion, embroideries, crystals, ceramics (including the famous "azulejos"), shoes and even religious icons from the revered Fatima.

A "bacalao" Festival—Portuguese style—will take place at Intercontinental Hotel. Besides the codfish, many other Portuguese specialties will be offered including the famous "Cataplana," a hinged copper pan invented by the Arabs, a sort of primitive pressure-cooker shaped like an oversized clam shell that can be clamped shut and set on a quick fire.

One of the highlights of the festival will be the celebration of the 85th anniversary of the last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima that will feature a procession and a Mass on Oct 13.

Filipino painter Manuel Baldemor will also open today an exclusive exhibition about Portugal. "It is, for me, a motive of great curiosity: to see my country through the eyes of a Filipino, including the best known Portuguese sites and historical monuments," Da Silva said.

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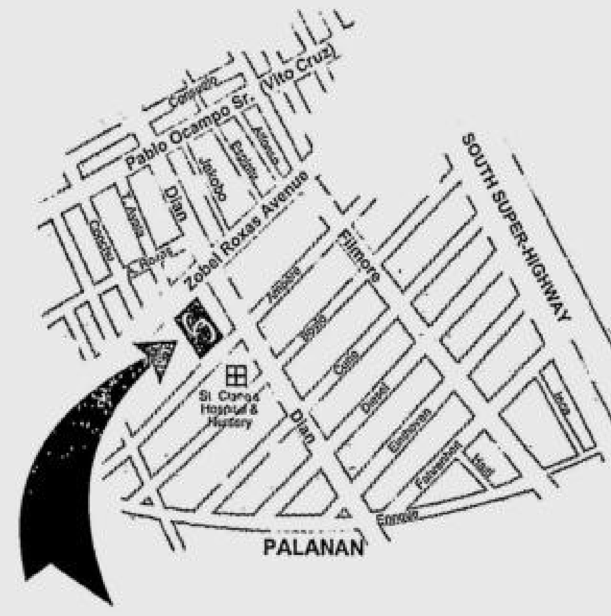

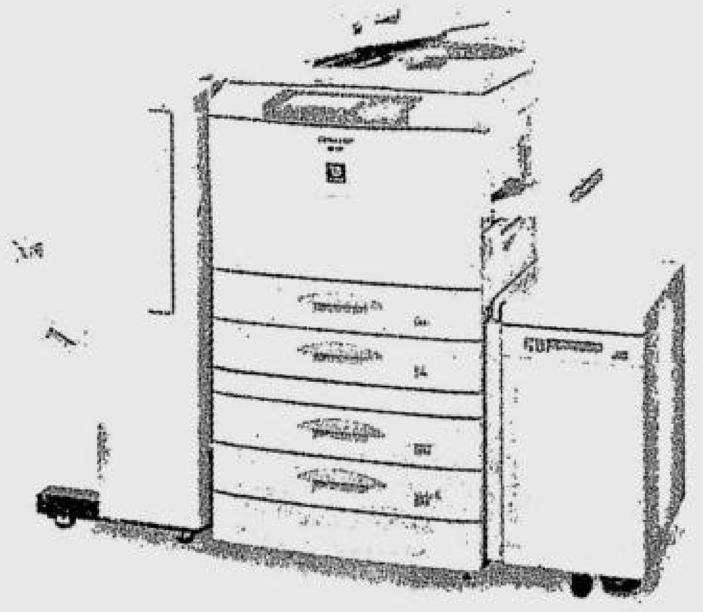

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

New minister to clean up Japan's loans

TOKYO—Newly appointed Japanese Financial Services Minister Heizo Takenaka said on Tuesday he would set up a task force as early as this week to discuss ways to tackle the country's bad-loan problem.

"In order to respond to the prime minister's request, I am going to set up a special project team to come up with measures to solve the issue," Takenaka told a news conference after a meeting of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's new cabinet.

"It is important to have an open policy discussion and show clearly our scenario in order to change the political environment," he added.

Takenaka said the task force would be headed by himself and include the chief of the Financial Services Agency (FSA), Shokichi Takagi, top-level FSA officials as well as four or five people from the private sector.

The task force would aim to draw up a report in the next two weeks that would include proposals to be discussed at Koizumi's top economic advisory panel, the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, he said.

Koizumi has made the clean-up of Japan's bad loan mess one of his political priorities, promising that the problem would be solved by March 2005, the end of fiscal 2004/05.

Officially, the banks are saddled with about 52 trillion yen ($426.8 billion) in non-performing loans.

Takenaka, who is also the economics minister, took over the financial services portfolio in Monday's cabinet reshuffle from Hakuo Yanagisawa, who had been criticized as an obstacle to aggressive action to clean up the banks.

Takenaka had clashed with Yanagisawa over the latter's opposition to any infusion of public funds to help banks clean up the bad loans that have cluttered their balance sheets for more than a decade, stalling economic growth.

Unlike his predecessor, Takenaka has stated that the government should not hesitate to inject taxpayers' money into the banks.

Reuters

US port strike delays Asian shipments

LOS ANGELES—Hundreds of millions of dollars' of goods were stranded at US west coast ports Monday as a labor dispute paralyzed docks, costing around a billion dollars a day and jeopardizing trade with Asia.

Scores of cargo-laden ships from San Diego, California, to Seattle, Washington, were locked out Sunday when the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shipping lines, locked out workers indefinitely.

"Our workers are locked out, ships and trucks are lining up outside ports up and down the coast with huge amounts of cargo accumulating," said Steve Stallone of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU).

"We are ready to go back to work as soon as the shippers allow us to. This is doing significant damage to the economy and the employers must take full and sole responsibility for it," he added.

The economic impact of the dispute is huge as the 29 west coast ports are the main points of entry to the country for trade from Asia, with about seven percent of the US gross domestic product passing through them.

Chicago-based retail analyst Mike Porter with Morningstar mutual fund, said East Asian economies, especially those exporting items such as clothes like China, South Korea and Taiwan, would be badly hit by an extended closure.

"It wouldn't take long at all for Asian economies to feel the pinch especially apparel manufacturers but just about all sectors of retail depend on that region of the world (Asia)." "Alternative methods of shipping, such as air freight, would not make sense for most Asian manufacturers hoping to get their goods to US consumers in time for the holiday shopping season" given the high cost, he said.

AFP

Retailers' Sept. sales bleak, holidays grim

NEW YORK—An already sluggish climate took a turn for the worse on Monday when major retailers, including leading discounters Wal-Mart and Target, scaled back sales forecasts as consumers fretting about job losses and a disastrous stock market stayed away from stores.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. on Monday ratcheted back its September sales forecast, the third straight month that the world's biggest retailer has been hurt by the shaky economy and consumer insecurity.

The speed and extent in Wal-Mart's expected sales growth at stores open at least a year—down to 3 to 4 percent from estimates of 4 to 6 percent at the start of the month—provided some of the strongest evidence yet that consumer spending, which has kept the anemic economy aloft, may finally be foundering.

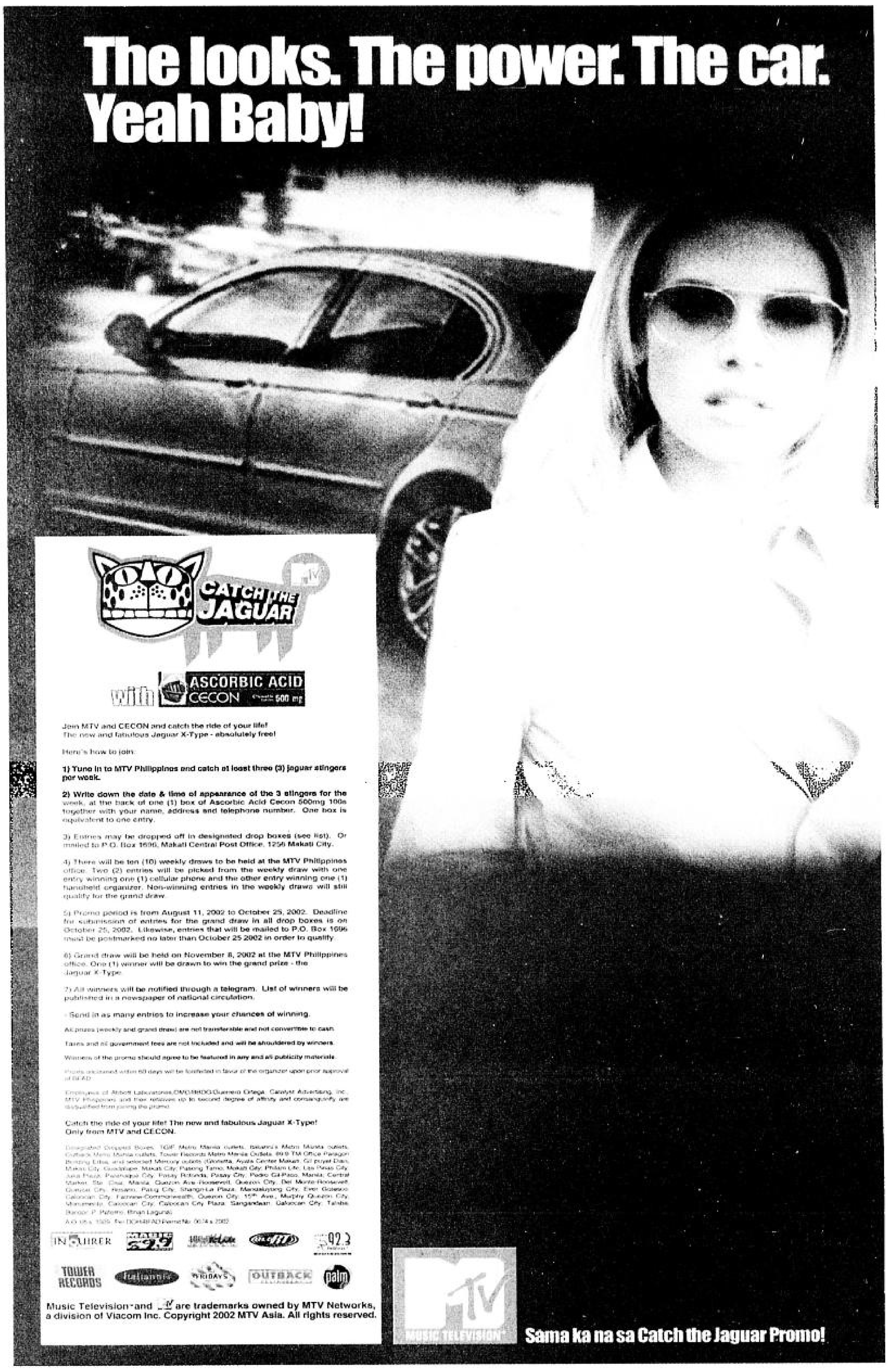
After the close of the market, rival Target Corp., the No. 3 discount chain, reported sales fell "well below" its plan last week and warned that September same-store sales—a key measure of retail performance—would slightly trail last year's 0.2 percent increase.

The Minneapolis-based retailer originally had projected an increase of between 3 percent and 5 percent at its namesake discount stores. Same-store sales for the entire company, which includes its Mervyn's and Marshall Fields department store units, had been expected to fall only slightly below that range.

In a sign of how deeply investor confidence has been shaken, shares of Aeropostale Inc. crumbled 54 percent in after-hours trading on Instinet, just after the youth-oriented clothing retailer slashed its profit forecast for the rest of the year due to dwindling mall traffic.

"This is in line with our view that the consumer continues to be cautious, the West Coast dock workers situation adds additional risk to the fall and Christmas season unless it's resolved quickly," said an analyst with Lazard LLC.

Reuters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3) Entries may be dropped off in designated drop boxes (see list). Or mailed to P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City.

4) There will be ten (10) weekly draws to be held at the MTV Philippines office. Two (2) entries will be picked from the weekly draw with one entry winning one (1) cellular phone and the other entry winning one (1) handheld organizer. Non-winning entries in the weekly draws will still qualify for the grand draw.

5) Promo period is from August 11, 2002 to October 25, 2002. Deadline for submission of entries for the grand draw in all drop boxes is on October 25, 2002. Likewise, entries that will be mailed to P.O. Box 1696 must be postmarked no later than October 25 2002 in order to qualify.

6) Grand draw will be held on November 8, 2002 at the MTV Philippines office. One (1) winner will be drawn to win the grand prize - the Jaguar X-Type.

7) All winners will be notified through a telegram. List of winners will be published in a newspaper of national circulation.

- Send in as many entries to increase your chances of winning.

All prizes (weekly and grand draw) are not transferable and not convertible to cash.

Taxes and all government fees are not included and will be shouldered by winners.

Winners of the promo should agree to be featured in any and all publicity materials.

Prizes unclaimed within 60 days will be forfeited in favor of the organizer upon prior approval of BFAD.

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NOTICE OF TENDER OFFER TO STOCKHOLDERS OF
ALSONS CEMENT CORPORATION

Union Cement Corporation ("UCC") is making a tender offer to buy approximately 12% of the issued and outstanding common shares of Alsons Cement Corporation ("ACC") from the minority stockholders of ACC. At the option of the ACC stockholders, the consideration of the acquisition shall be:

(a) P0.28 for one (1) common share of ACC, or

(b) one (1) UCC share for every 3.7 ACC shares, with any remaining fractional shares paid in cash on the basis of a price of P0.28 per share.

UCC has entered into an agreement with a majority stockholder of ACC, Cemco Holdings, Inc. ("Cemco"), for the acquisition of approximately 88% of the issued and outstanding common shares of ACC.

The offer period is from October 2, 2002 to 3:00 p.m. on November 12, 2002. The offer period will not be extended.

Tendering shareholders shall have the right to withdraw any ACC shares tendered at any time during the Offer Period, unless such ACC shares have been previously accepted for payment by UCC. If tendered ACC shares are not accepted by UCC after the expiration of sixty (60) business days from the start of the offer period, tendering shareholders may likewise withdraw their ACC shares.

For withdrawal of the ACC shares to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be timely received by the AB Capital Securities, Inc. (the "BROKER") at the address set forth below. The notice must specify the name of the tendering shareholder and the number of ACC shares to be withdrawn. If the stock certificates evidencing the ACC shares have been delivered to the BROKER, the serial numbers shown on such certificates must be submitted to the BROKER prior to the physical release of such certificates. No request for withdrawal of fractions of ACC shares will be considered. The BROKER shall have the right in its sole discretion, to determine the form and validity of the notice of withdrawal, including the time of receipt thereof.

The issuance of UCC shares pursuant to the tender offer is conditional upon the registration of said shares with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") in accordance with the Securities Regulations Code and the listing of said shares with the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE"). ING Bank N.V. has confirmed that UCC has sufficient funds and/or unissued shares to satisfy full acceptance of the offer.

This offer is subject to the terms and conditions of the Terms of the Tender Offer and the SEC Form 19-1 filed with the SEC and the PSE on October 2, 2002. Copies of said SEC Form 19-1 are kept at the offices of the BROKER at 3/F Asian Plaza Building, 328 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Tordesillas Street, Salcedo Village, 1200 Makati City. ACC shareholders who wish to obtain a copy of said document may look for Mr. Lamberto M. Santos, Jr.

After the completion of the acquisition by UCC of approximately 88% of the shares in ACC from Cemco, a petition for voluntary delisting the shares of ACC will be filed with the PSE.

For inquiries regarding this tender offer, please call Mr. Lamberto M. Santos, Jr. or Mr. Ericson C. Wee at 8945461 or 8945477 . For inquiries about the number of shares of a shareholder in ACC, please call Mr. Richard D. Regala at 8924825

UNION CEMENT CORPORATION

By:

ROBERTO M. LAVIÑA
Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer

ADVT.

IMF sees growing support for creation of debt forum

PARIS—International Monetary Fund deputy chief Anne Krueger on Monday said there was growing support in the international community for the creation of a new independent creditors' forum to renegotiate the debt of countries in default.

Krueger told a French newspaper there was currently no consensus among IMF members for the amendments to the Fund's rules that such a proposal would require, but she was confident this would be reached.

"...if you ask me whether we are moving towards such a consensus, the answer is categorically affirmative," she told French business daily Les Echos in an interview.

Key details—such as the level of the extended majority of members within the forum needed to make a decision—were being discussed.

"The figure of 75 percent is often cited," she noted.

"I propose to put in place a crisis resolution forum, reasonably independent from the IMF, in which the creditors of a country in default could come to agreement . . . on the details of restructuring this country's debts," An independent creditors' forum is part of Krueger's proposal to improve the way the international community solves the problems that arise when a country encounters difficulties in honoring its debts.

In addition to a creditor's forum, a type of international bankruptcy court, the international community is also debating the inclusion of so-called collective action clauses in bond contracts, which detail what should be done if a default occurs.

Over the weekend in Washington emerging market countries dismissed a plan by the Fund and world's richest nations under which all emerging market bonds should include so-called "collective action clauses".

Under the plan for collective action clauses, dissident bondholders can not hold up a deal by suing for full payment if most of the other creditors agree to restructure the bonds of a country that has declared default.

On Friday the Group of Seven industrialized nations—the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, Canada, France and Italy—said all foreign emerging markets bonds should now include so-called collective action clauses. *Reuters*

US stock market puts in worst quarter performance since 1987

NEW YORK—Investors gave stocks around the world a beating on Monday, marking the broad US market's worst quarter since the crash of 1987, after profit worries and a grim regional US factory report roused concerns economic growth is stalling. European bourses plummeted while the Dow Jones industrial average .DJI marked its lowest close since August 1998, when Russia defaulted on its debt. Bond investors made huge bets the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates again to stave off further weakness, sending yields on two-year Treasury notes below the 1.75 percent federal funds rate.

Oil prices dipped as front-month contracts expired but the drumbeat of war on Iraq continued even as talks between top U.N. arms inspectors and Iraqi arms experts kept losses mild.

The dollar fell in sympathy with Wall Street stocks.

A private survey, meanwhile, said manufacturing in the US Midwest shrank for the first time in eight months in September, taking markets off guard and signaling a rebound that began early this year may have stalled.

"We're pricing in a very high probability of the Fed easing, certainly at the November meeting and even some probability of an inter-meeting move," said Tony Rodriguez, head of fixed-income at US Bancorp Asset Management in Minneapolis, which oversees $29 billion in bonds.

The weak data in turn exacerbated worries on Wall Street over corporate profits.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. dropped nearly 4 percent, or $2 to $49.24 after cutting its September sales forecast. Intel Corp., the world's No. 1 chipmaker, fell about 5 percent, or 73 cents to $13.89 on worries over the timing of a turnaround in the beleaguered computer industry.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 109.52 points, or 1.42 percent, to 7,591.93, according to the latest available data, its lowest close since August 1998.

The tech-laced Nasdaq Composite index fell 27.09 points, or 2.26 percent, to 1,172.07, falling to its lowest close since September 1996. The broad Standard & Poor's 500 Index fell 12.09 points, or 1.46 percent, to 815.28. *Reuters*

Top Wall Street executives charged

NEW YORK—New York's attorney general Monday sued five top corporate executives, including former WorldCom chief Bernie Ebbers, for allegedly profiteering from share offerings and phony stock ratings to the tune of more than $1.5 billion.

According to the civil suit filed by attorney general Eliot Spitzer, the five defendants steered their companies' underwriting business to investment bank Salomon Smith Barney, in return for access to lucrative initial public offerings of stocks.

Once the share prices soared in active trading, the stocks were often sold, netting the executives around $28.2 million in profits, it said.

"This case exposes further conflicts of interest on Wall Street," Spitzer said.

"The spinning of hot IPO shares was not a harmless corporate perk. Instead it was an integral part of a fraudulent scheme to win new investment banking business." As well as Ebbers, the suit names Qwest Communications chair Philip Anschutz, Qwest chief executive Joseph Nacchio, Metromedia Fiber Networks chair Stephen Garofalo and McLeod USA chief executive Clark McLeod.

The suit comes as federal prosecutors are reportedly building a criminal case against Ebbers over the multibillion-dollar accounting scandal that brought WorldCom to its knees.

Ebbers has yet to be charged with any wrongdoing in the WorldCom collapse, which has already seen two of the telecom giant's senior executives plead guilty to fraud.

In the suit unveiled Monday, Ebbers was accused of making 11.5 million dollars in profits from sales of initial public offerings. *AFP*

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Auditor caught in Tyco scrutiny

BOSTON/NEW YORK—Tyco International Ltd. has become a headache for its outside auditor PricewaterhouseCoopers, whose work is under the microscope of a small army of investigators poring over several controversial deals that happened on the accounting firm's watch.

PricewaterhouseCoopers on Monday said it was cooperating as an "information provider" with the Manhattan district attorney's office on its probe of Tyco.

Tyco also confirmed on Monday that the conglomerate's accounting treatment of nearly $100 million in secret loans is part of the second phase of an internal investigation led by lawyer David Boies. PwC said it is cooperating and assisting that internal investigation also.

One key question for the Boies team, which includes forensic accountants, is whether audits by PwC uncovered about $96 million in unauthorized payments for a group of employees that included indicted former chair Dennis Kozlowski.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday that Manhattan prosecutors are investigating whether the accounting firm knew about the secret bonuses and the methods used to hide them.

"The story is inconsistent with our understanding," a PwC spokesperson said about the Journal article. "We are cooperating with the Manhattan district attorney on the basis that the firm is simply a witness, a provider of information in these proceedings ... We have no reason to believe we are anything other than a witness."

Richard Scalzo, the PricewaterhouseCoopers partner who oversees the Tyco account, did not return a phone call seeking comment.

The scandal at Tyco is just the latest disclosure proving to be an embarrassment for PricewaterhouseCoopers.

In July, the firm agreed to pay $5 million to settle charges brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission that its auditors approved improper accounting and that it violated independence standards for several clients in the past. *Reuters*

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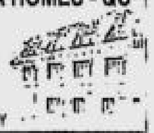

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URGENT 20 OFC/ADM STAFF 9134470 w/w/oexp 18-45 Jovan

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen. - ODB

2-DAY AUCTION SALE

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DAY-1 SALE

CRANES & HANDLING EQUIPMENT - KATO, R.T. 20T cap.; GROVE 27T cap. Truck Mounted Cranes; DAEWOO FD60M 5T cap. Forklift
(3) INTERNATIONAL 10m³; (2) KENWORTH 7.0m³ Transit Mixers; Asstd. Electric & Engine Driven Vibrators; Asstd. Single Bagger Mixers; Asstd. Cutters; Asstd Buckets
TRANSPORTATION - (3) FREIGHTLINER; (2) WESTERN; INTERNATIONAL; FUSO Truck Tractors; (2) ISUZU 10W Dropside; (2) HINO, (2) FUSO Dropside Trucks w/ Boom Arm; ISUZU 6 x 4 Dump Truck; (3) ISUZU Fuel/Water Trucks; Asstd. ISUZU, KIA, NISSAN Service Vehicles; (3) FRANCISCO Jeepnyes, (2) Flat Bed Trailers, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT - MILLER, LINCOLN, DENYO Welding Generators; Asstd. Electric Arc Welders; Plate Compactors, Tamping Rammers; KUBOTA, LEROY SOMER Tower Lights, SULLAIR, LEROI, DENYO Air Compressors, FERMONT, GM, Diesel Generators, etc.

DAY-2 SALE

UNUSED CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT - (2) AUSA 150DG Rigid Chassis Dumpers; (2) SAKAI HV80 Vibratory Compactor; SAKAI MDL-VT80J Tamping Rammer; (4) BOSS 2000Kg cap. Pallet Jacks; (9) LM56 Mucking Machine Shovel Loader; (5) LINCOLN CV400, R3R500, R3R400 Welding Generators, (5) PHOENIX Dry Rod Ovens; (50) Electrode Stabilizing Ovens; (2) PHOENIX 400 BT Floor Type Electrode Ovens; PUTZNECHT Universal Pump
MOBILE PLANT - KENWORTH, (4) PETERBILT Transit Mixers; CATERPILLAR 12F Gader; Wheeled Front Loader; CATERPILLAR Hydraulic Excavator; WIRTGEN Cold Milling Machine; (2) DAIHATSU Charades; (2) Asphalt Trailers
MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT - (2) Asphalt Trailers; Concrete Pump; Concrete Cutter; Asstd. Generators, Asstd. Welding Machines

ON: FRIDAY 11TH AND SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2002 10:30AM SHARP
ON VIEW: WEDNESDAY 9TH AND THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2002
9:00AM - 5:00PM AND MORNING OF SALE DAYS
LOCATION - DAY 1 SALE: EEI CORPORATION, MAJADA OUT, CALAMBA, LAGUNA
LOCATION - DAY 2 SALE: PHILROCK YARD 353 WEST BANK ROAD, FLOODWAY, BRGY. MAYBUNGA, MANGGAHAN, PASIG CITY
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP30,000 (UPON REGISTRATION)

NEGOTIATED SALE

TOWER CRANES - (2) COMEDIL CTL-130 H20 Luffing (1994); COMEDIL CTL-130 H16 Luffing (1994); (2) POTAIN E2/23B Static; (2) POTAIN EO/23B Open
CONSTRUCTION ELEVATORS - PEGA K-15, 140m 1.5T cap. Single Cage (1995); (2) PEGA K Hoist 140m 1.2T cap. Single Cage; HEK PLA 1253 1.2T cap. Twin Cage (1995)
WORKING PLATFORMS - (12) HEK URK 500 Mast Type Finishing
CONCRETE BATCHING PLANTS - Trailer Mounted 30m³/hr cap. Manual Loading; 30m³/hr cap. w/ CARDINAL Weighing Mechanism, 30m³/hr cap. w/ KATIGAWA Weighing Mechanism, 15m³/hr cap. w/ TOLEDO Weighing Mechanism Wet Type Fully Automatic; 60m³/hr cap. w/ TOLEDO Weighing Mechanism Dry Type Fully Automatic

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Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
5th Floor Bonifacio Bldg., DepEd Complex,
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Supply and Delivery of Supplementary Reading Materials (SRM) to Elementary Leader Schools (SRM) and Satellite Schools in the Philippines IFB No. PISU-CO/0222002, Loan No. PII-408

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Third Elementary Education Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Supplementary Reading Materials (SRM) to Elementary Leader Schools (SRM) and Satellite Schools in the Philippines (IFB No. PISU-CO/0222002).
2. The Department of Education (DepEd) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of Supplementary Reading Materials.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with international competitive bidding policies and procedures contained in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Ground Floor, 112-A Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, Tel. No. 636-6543 and (+632) 632-1361 local 2019 and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, starting **October 1, 2002.**
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Philippine Peso Two Thousand Five Hundred (PhP 2,500.00) or United States Dollar Fifty (USD 50.00). The method of payment will be in cash or cashier's check. The document will be sent through courier service for both local and overseas. Cost of courier service will be to the account of the bidder.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below (for bids to be submitted before the deadline of submission) or at the venue of the bid opening (for bids to be submitted on the day of bid opening). Deadline for submission of bids is at 10:00 a.m. on **November 12, 2002**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than Two Percent (2%) of the total bid price in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, at 10:00 a.m. on **November 12, 2002.**
7. A pre-bid conference will be conducted on **October 10, 2002** at 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary

(PDI - Sept. 30, Oct. 2 & 7, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that S2 License of **JANE ANDAMAN-VILLASENOR** was lost. If no contest received, new license will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 25 & Oct. 2, 2002)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

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187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
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145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila, Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42. (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
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Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291

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Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
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Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque; Tels. 820-1592. 825-9947. 825-8635
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79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
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EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City. Tels. 895-1011 to 19
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Tels. 941-3196 to 98. 941-3676. Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855. 682-0209. 682-0210
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Tels. 831-3797. 844-7846. 843-1801. 845-4836
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank to bank payments

In Loving Remembrance
on the 3rd Death Anniversary
of our beloved

CONRADO C. CAIMOL

(September 17, 1909-October 2, 1999)

We, his children **BERT & GENY, ALLAN & PANSY, LORETA, ELY & BABY**; brother **FRANCISCO**; sister **FELICIDAD** and grandchildren deeply miss his presence but his loving memories will always remain in our hearts forever.

MASSES OFFERED:

Queen of Peace All Saints (Concord, CA)	October 1, 2002	12:15 P.M.
St. Patrick's Cathedral (San Francisco, CA)	October 2, 2002	12:15 P.M.
Sanctuario de San Jose (East Greenhills, Mand.)	October 2, 2002	6:15 A.M.
Immaculate Conception Church (Damar Vill., Q.C.)	October 2, 2002	6:15 A.M.

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
AMADOR A. DATOY	Oct. 2	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Malutum Memorial Park Polomolok South Cotabato	Zone XI-C, Blk. 7 Fatima, GSC
ROGELIO L. ABAY-ABAY	Oct. 3	9:00 AM	Holy Gardens Malutum Memorial Park Polomolok South Cotabato	Purok Vicente Fin Polomolok South Cotabato
NARCISA B. ARAQUEL	Oct. 3	7:30 AM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park Polomolok South Cotabato	Sunrise Subd. Pagdaraoan San Fernando City La Union

www.holygardens.com

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

THERESA AMY LYNDA MIZKEWIZ

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 28, 2002 at the age of 31.

Her remains lie in state at the
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS,
Sucat, Parañaque.
Funeral mass will be on Thursday,
October 3, 2002, 10:00 a.m. followed by
cremation services at the Manila Memorial
Park Crematorium.

GUALBERTO R. SAN PEDRO

Former Provincial Auditor of Rizal & Bulacan

Died on September 30, 2002 at the age of 90.

He is survived by his sons **Angelito** and **Benedicto**; daughters-in-law **Teresita** and **Nancy** and grandchildren **Marissa, Melanie**, and **Paul Marcel Gual** and **Eric Lester.**

His body lies in state at the family residence in Tipas, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on October 06 at the IFI (Aglipayan) Cemetery, Tipas, Tagig Metro Manila after the 2 P.M. Mass.

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Science and Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (DOST - Wide BAC) hereby invites local suppliers, to apply for eligibility and to bid in the forthcoming public bidding for the procurement of One Lot X-Ray Flourescense Spectrometer. The approved budget is P14M chargeable against PHIVOLCS funds.

Only those eligible bidders evaluated by the DOST-Wide BAC shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

All eligible bidders may secure the necessary documents on the following dates:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	October 7, 2002. Rm. 207 DOST Building, Gen. Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	October 11, 2002 until 5:00 p.m. at Rm. 207, DOST Building, Gen. Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig
Issuance of Bidding Documents	October 16, 2002. Rm. 207, DOST Building
Pre-Bid Conference	October 21, 2002. 10:00 a.m. / DOST Executive Lounge
Opening of Bids	November 5, 2002. 10:00 a.m. / DOST Executive Lounge, Bicutan, Taguig

Prospective bidders may surf our DOST website addressed at: http://www.dost.gov.ph

The DOST-Wide BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality and make an award to the bidder whose bid proposal is the lowest calculated responsive bid and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
Assistant Secretary and
Chairperson, DOST-Wide BAC

(PDI – Oct. 2 & 4, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
MANILA, BRANCH 5

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF
MINOR FELISE MICHAEL USITA

Sp. Proc. No. 00-98712

SPS. CELESTINO MARIANO & FELICIMA R.
GOSIEN-MARIANO,
Petitioner.
x-----------------------------------x

AMENDED ORDER

In a verified petition filed with this Court by petitioners **SPS. CELESTINO MARIANO AND FELICIMA R. GOSIEN-MARIANO** through counsel, they pray that after due notice, publication, and hearing, judgment be rendered granting the adoption of the minor **FELISE MICHAEL USITA**.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, this Court hereby sets the initial hearing of this petition on October 23, 2002 at 8:30 in the morning, during which time and date all interested parties are cited to appear and show cause if any why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in a newspaper published, edited, and of general circulation once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, and a copy of this Order with the petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the City Prosecutor of Manila and the DSWD-NCR. The Department of Social Welfare and Development-NCR is hereby ordered to conduct a Social Case Study as required by law and to submit to this Court the Child Study and Home Study Reports and their recommendation on the matter at least one week before the scheduled date of hearing.

SO ORDERED.
Manila, March 25, 2002

AMALIA R. ANDRADE
Judge

(PDI - Sept. 25, Oct. 2 & 9, 2002)

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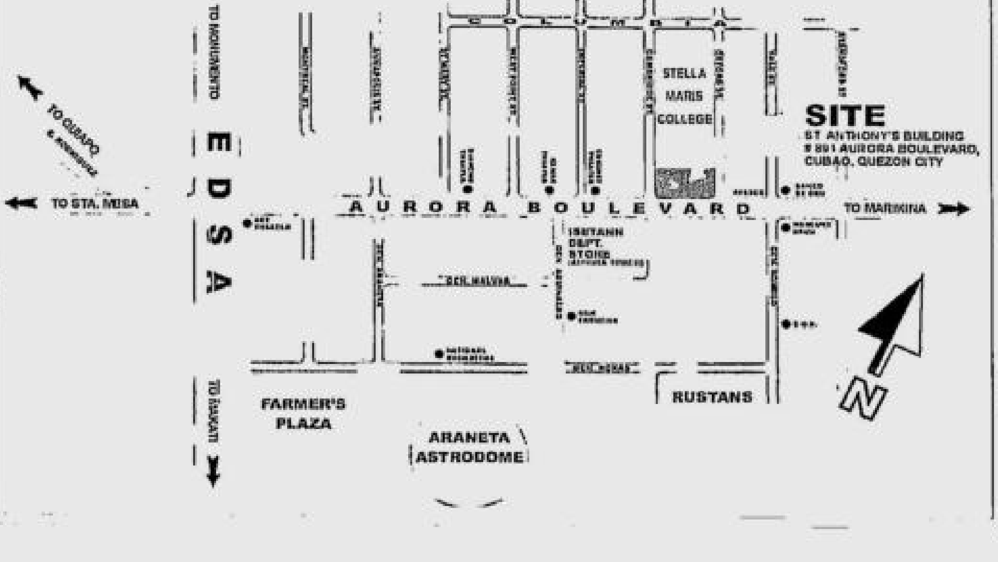

PUBLIC NOTICE

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9043, 9050, 9814, 9816, 9817,
9825, 9826, 9827, 9834, 9835,
9840, 9841,9849, 9850, 009001,
009005, 009010, 009020,
009021, 009036, 009050,
009051, 009054, 009062,
009066-009100, 009109, 009110,
009112-009150, 009151, 009159,
009160, 009162, 009185-009200

of GABBY'S MARKETING BATAAN, INC.

Said Invoices were released to
Ms. Eva Tana
Ms. Tana or any other parties are no longer authorized to issue said invoices.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
MAGALLANES DRIVE, INTRAMUROS
1002 MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and subsequently to bid for sanitation, maintenance and janitorial work and services to be rendered at the premises of (1) the BI Main Office, Intramuros, Manila, (2) the BI Detention Center, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila and at (3) BI-Peza Bldg., Pasay City.

Prospective bidders may obtain eligibility requirements at the BAC Secretariat, General Services Section, 3rd Floor, Bureau of Immigration Main Office, Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila from October 14 to 16, 2002 during office hours. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents shall be on October 22, 2002. All applicants shall be notified on the result of the eligibility screening. Only eligible bidders shall be issued the approved scope of works and other bidding documents and requirements. Submission and opening of bids shall be announced on a later date.

The Bureau of Immigration reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The Bureau of Immigration likewise assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **DANIEL C. CUETO**
Associate Commissioner
Chairman, BAC (General)

(PDI--Oct. 2, 4 & 10, 2002)

People, Events & Products
Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

CFIP spearheads furniture week celebration

THE CHAMBER of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP), the industry's acknowledged champion of the local furniture industry, spearheads the celebrations commemorating Furniture Week this September.

Celebrated each year by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 368, this year's Furniture Week is an affirmation of government's support to the growth and development of the furniture industry. Considered as an export winner, the industry has been a strong contributor to the national coffers via substantial export sales. What's more, this annual celebration motivates industry players to excel and rise above the challenges posed by foreign competition.

Furniture Week 2002 focuses more on advocacy. The Consumer Awareness Program is a comprehensive attempt by CFIP to educate the people on the role of the furniture industry as one of the engines of growth. Running during the entire month of September, the program, a tri-media campaign that explains issues related to the furniture sector, paradigms industry players espouse relative to their growth and development, general information on the industry, and success stories of select furniture manufacturers.

The Furniture Forum is another event that many industry players, including those who plan to be part of the sector, are looking forward to. Set last Sept. 18 to 19 at the Exportbank Plaza, the highlight of the forum was the extensive discourse and discussion on policy changes that will improve the industry's competitiveness and profitability.

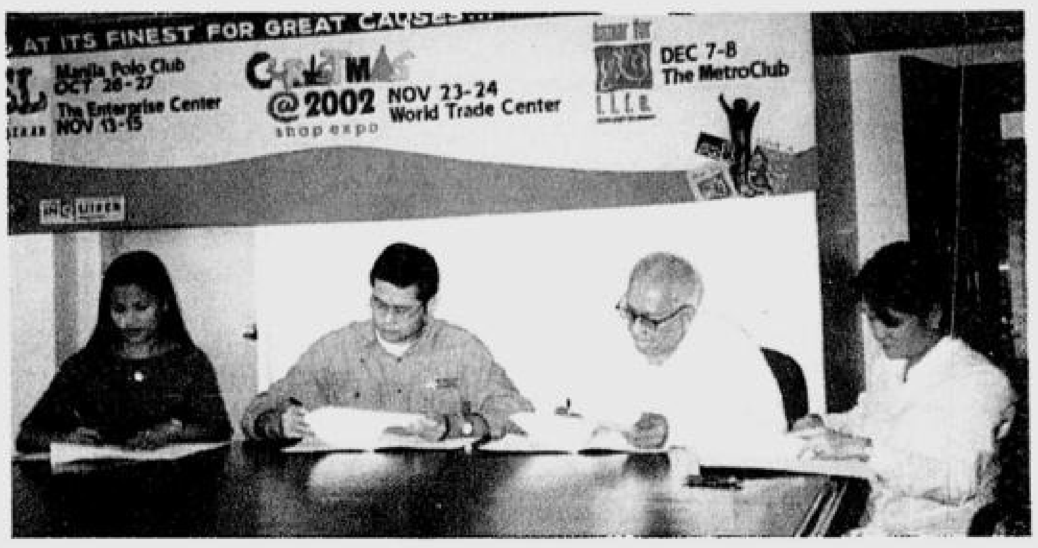
Topics to be discussed include access to credit, lower transport and inter-island shipping costs, lobor policies, sustainability in manufacturing and global competitiveness.

Prior to the Furniture Forum is the President's Meeting, a gathering of all the Chapter Presidents of the Chamber. This occasion is marked by the chapters' re-validation of their solidarity as an organization. This is done through a comprehensive presentation of the developments in the various chapters of the chamber.

CFIP has been the standard bearer of the local furniture industry since its inception in the mid 1990s. established in September 1996, the chamber was an offshoor of the manufacturers' recognition of common problems and the need to come up with appropriate solutions. Primarily, it was during this period that industry players recognized the importance of knowing each other and appreciating each one on both personal and professional levels. Many manufacturers also realized the importance of developing technical and technological expertise. More importantly, the industry players realized the value of collectively using influence. Thus, CFIP was born.

Today, CFIP has grown to 11 chapters nationwide and some 1,500 member companies.

Aside from leading the commemorative celebrations for Furniture Week, the Chamber also recognizes the Philippine International Furniture Show, a trade event exclusively for foreign buyers. The 2003 edition happening in February to March next year is set at the Mimoza grounds of Clark Expo. Meanwhile, its shows geared for the domestic market, the Furniture Festival, has editions in May and November.


AT ITS FINEST FOR GREAT CAUSES
Manila Polo Club OCT 26-27
The Enterprise Center NOV 13-15
@2002 NOV 23-24 World Trade Center
shop expo
DEC 7-8 The MetroClub

SIM SUPPORTS NOEL CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

Signing the memorandum of agreement between the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Noel Christmas Bazaars Series making the Sunday Inquirer Magazine the official print media partner of Noel Christmas Bazaars Series were (from left) Hazel Soriaga, Inquirer marketing officer, Donald Lim, division head of Classified sales of Inquirer, Dr. Quintin S. Doromal, executive director of Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation (BBF) and Mayose Bautista, project director of the Noel Christmas Bazaars. The Series kicks off at the Manila Polo Club on Oct. 26 and 27 to be followed by Noel Visits the Enterprise at the Enterprise Center from Nov. 13 to 15, Christmas@2002 Shop Expo at the World Trade Center on Nov. 23 and 24 and the Bazaar for LIFE at the Metroclub on Dec. 7 and 8. Proceeds from all events will benefit BBF, the GMA Foundation (GMAF), the Leukemic Indigent Fund Endowment (LIFE) and the Philippine Missions Association. For inquiries and more information, call Cut Unlimited at 687-0654, 687-0604, 687-2955, 687-7523, or e-mail cut@pacific.net.ph.

Lung cancer symposium

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Medical Oncology announces the 16th Annual Convention on "Lung Cancer Symposium" on Oct. 3 and 4 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. For details, call the secretariat at 723-0101 local 5318 or 721-9326 (telefax) and e-mail psmo-sec@pacific.net.ph.

NESTLE FACTORIES SUPPORT BLOOD DONATIONS

The Cabuyao and Pulilan factories of Nestle Philippines Inc. were recently recognized for supporting initiatives to make safe supplies of blood more available in local communities. The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC)-Laguna chapter cited the Nestle Cabuyao Factory for its contributions and support for the promotion of PNRC's blood services. Babes Sioson of Nestle Cabuyao's HR division was also presented an award for her role in PNRC's blood donation efforts. Meanwhile, the Nestle Pulilan Factory received a plaque of appreciation from Bulacan Governor Josie de la Cruz for its active support of the bloodletting project initiated by the Bulacan Local Blood Council chaired by vice governor Aurelio Plamenco.

Smart Heart Challenge proves oatmeal's health benefit

IT has been proven that oatmeal contains special properties that are beneficial to the heart. Quaker Oats Company, the world's largest manufacturer of oatmeal, conducted a scientific experiment to demonstrate the benefits of oatmeal and its ability to help reduce the risk of heart disease by lowering cholesterol.

An experiment, termed as the Smart Heart Challenge, was first conducted in Lafayette, Colorado. The 100 participants volunteered to eat a bowl of oatmeal everyday over the next 30 days. After the entire program, it was diagnosed that 98 percent of the partakers were able to reduce their cholesterol level with an average drop of 25 points (mg/dl). It was noted that the result was more impressive among participants who had higher levels of bad cholesterol.

This amazing success opens a window of development among health buffs as well as the ailing to a better and cleaner lifestyle.

DESIGNS LIGNA, BETIS CRAFT SUPPORT APSDA MANILA 2002

Noted furniture companies sponsor the forthcoming Asia Pacific Space Designers Association Congress (Apsda), a milestone in the interior design community, from Oct. 3 to 6 at the PICC, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Hosted by the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID), this event will be a remarkable gathering of noted industry professionals and practitioners in the interior design and architectural community with this year's theme 'Design Dynamism in A Technical Decade'. Seated, from left, are Belen S. Morey, PIID president, Nicky de Lange of Designs Ligna, Myrna Bituin of Betis Craft, and Gerry L. Contreras, overall chair of the Apsda Manila Congress 2002. For more details, call the Apsda secretariat at 867-1404/03 or event manager Convex International at 726-4128 to 30, 726-864 to 65.

BITS Clips

Camacho keynotes BMAP confab

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is set to deliver the keynote address during the two-day conference of the Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP) on Oct. 2 and 3 at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Makati. Dubbed "Glocalizing Bank Marketing: Global Trends for the Local Market," topics such as bancassurance, global ads for the local market, corporate identity, marketing strategies applied to financial services, institutionalizing sales culture, service quality and marketing trends, among others, will be discussed during the conference. BMAP is an organization of influential decision makers in the fields of product development and management, market research, bank advertising, corporate communications, public relations, corporate and retail banking, market services and corporate planning.

QUIZ BEE PRESENTER

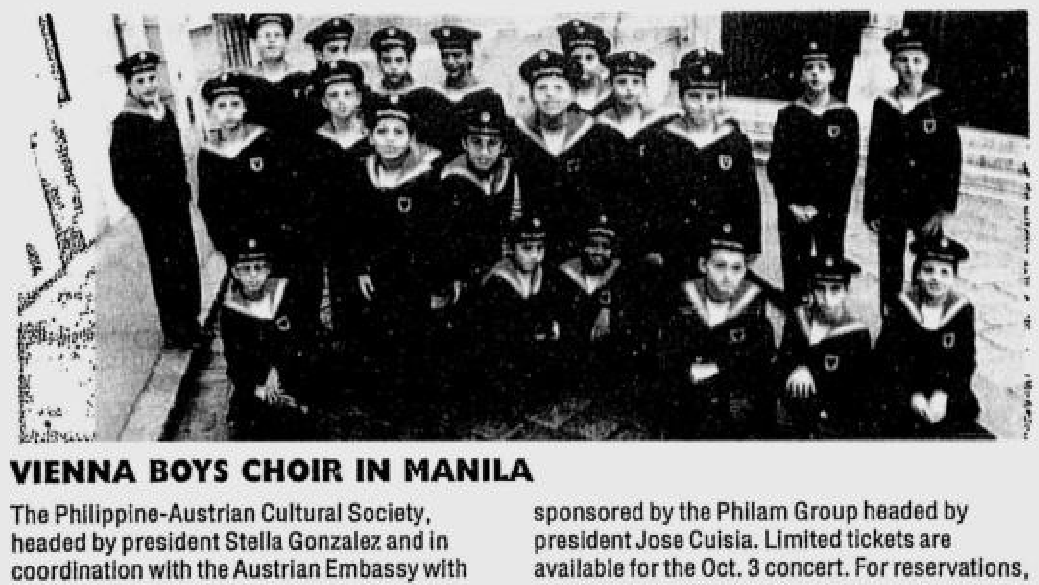
Nutroplex Multivitamins with iron and lysine is the sole presenter of the 23rd National Super Quiz Bee. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Gemmalyn Zamora, product associate and Kristine Martinez, product manager of Probus United Laboratories with Gay P. Tayag, president and Pettizou P. Tayag, vice president of the Quiz Bee Foundation (QBF). In consonance with the Nutroplex campaign 'Para Lubos ang Talino', Nutroplex, in cooperation with QBF, is also running an education upgrade drive in selected private schools in Metro Manila with public schools also as beneficiaries.

AIM course on IT

THE ASIAN Institute of Management's Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center (Excell) is conducting a three-day course titled "IT: Engaging & Influencing People" from Oct. 3 to 5 at the AIM Campus, Makati City. The course focuses on negotiation within the sphere of project management and seeks to ease the dealings with various stakeholders of projects such as vendors, managers and co-workers. Learn how to have your projects and goals better understood by different stakeholders for project buy-in, compliance and acceptance. The course is open to IT project managers, middle-senior level managers, sales and marketing directors, purchasing managers and human resources managers. For more information, call AIM Excell marketing group at 894-0043, 893-2050/2031, fax 892-3340 or 892-3260. E-mail excel@dataserve.aim.edu.ph.

A REVO FOR HER EFFORTS

Elvie Balmaceda, with Cory Baxter, vice president for operations, Maria Nina T. Cotero, director, and senior staff for London House of Perfumes Direct, are seen during the first Car Incentive Award. Balmaceda was awarded a Toyota Revo VX 200 J for her outstanding performance in selling high-class perfumes from England and Asia.



VIENNA BOYS CHOIR IN MANILA

The Philippine-Austrian Cultural Society, headed by president Stella Gonzalez and in coordination with the Austrian Embassy with Ambassador Christian Krepela, is bringing to Manila the Vienna Boys Choir. There will be two concerts: on Thursday, Oct. 3 7 p.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park Church, to be partly sponsored by the Bank of the Philippine Islands, and; on Friday, Oct. 4, 8 p.m. at the Philam Life Theater Auditorium, to be sponsored by the Philam Group headed by president Jose Cuisia. Limited tickets are available for the Oct. 3 concert. For reservations, call the Philippine-Austrian Cultural Society at 819-3733. The tradition of the Vienna Boys Choir had been in existence since the late 1400s as part of the Imperial Court under then Habsburg Emperor Maximilian the 1st. Pearl Manila Hotel is the official residence of the Vienna Boys Choir during their stay here.

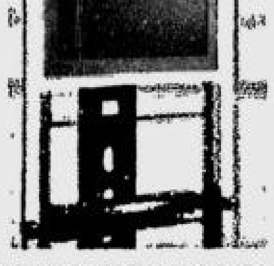
Instrumentation, control show at PTTC

ALL systems are go for this year's Philippine Instrumentation and Control Show 2002 (PICShow 2002) from Oct. 3 to 5 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. This is the country's premier exhibition on the latest in instrumentation and process control, scientific and laboratory instruments, industrial automation and building management systems. It is organized by the Philippine Instrumentation and Control Society (PICS) and is supported by the DOST, Tesda, MIRDC, Philmets, IIEE, Iecep, and the Philippine Science Journalists Association. The show will be held in conjunction with its silver anniversary convention. For more information, call the secretariat at 746-3023, telefax 746-3085, or e-mail pics77@edsamail.com.ph. Log on to www.pics77.com.

Product FILES

Sony unveils new DR Series Wega

SONY Philippines, the country's leader in consumer electronics and a majority-owned sales company of Sony Corp., recently introduced its new FD Trinitron Wega DR Series in the local market. The Wega DR Series features flat-screen television with the innovative Digital Reality Creation (DRC), a technology that allows crisp image quality by converting analog signals into higher definition signals.



On top of DRC, technologies such as the 3-Dimension Digital Comb and 3-Dimension Noise Reduction (3D-NR) are incorporated into this state-of-the-art TV. The 3D Digital Comb and the 3D-NR ensure sharper picture quality, less noise and pure color. These superior features are framed in the TV's sleek frame with high-gloss quality finish that provides a smooth, elegant surface.

As the frontrunner in consumer electronics technology, Sony Philippines recently featured the first Wega DR Series model KV-DR29M89 at the premier showing of "Men in Black II" at Greenbelt 3 in Makati.

Engineer asks, 'How do I conquer my low self-confidence?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM a 40-year-old civil engineer who sometimes supervises construction work. My problem is I have this unfounded fear of facing or talking with the company owner (Saudi) and clients. Due to this fear or uneasiness, I am content with my present position without any desire for a higher position.

My project manager is preparing me for future promotion because I always take over when he goes on leave. He advised me to be a little bit "*mayabang*" so I can be a successful manager. Modesty aside, my colleagues have a high regard for me due to my intellectual capacity. I belong to the top 20 in the board exams.

I was thinking of consulting a psychiatrist (or should it be a psychologist?) to help me overcome this negative behavior.

Reluctant Engineer

Congratulations! I know it took much courage for you to write this letter. Recognizing your weakness and deciding to face up to it is a step in the right direction.

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

It would be very sad if you do not reach your full potential as a professional because of low self-confidence. I can sense some desire on your part to pursue or accept the possible promotion when it comes. Deep within, you know there is no logical reason for you to refuse. As you mentioned, you have the intellectual capacity and the experience to do well on the job.

Continuous learning

In the spirit of continuous learning, study and work on your areas of improvement. This is one way to bolster your self-confidence.

Try to trace the cause of your low self-confidence. It may emanate from your childhood experiences. One person I know who has a similar problem came from a family with very authoritarian parents. He was not allowed to think or decide for himself. He constantly deferred to them. He tended to transfer this fear of his parents to any person in authority. Many times, he suppressed his valuable inputs at work.

Deference to authority is very much a part of our culture. But as adults, we should be able to break out of the cultural mold and start to say things with candor without forgeting our consideration for the other person.

Transactional analysis

Transactional analysis may help you in your problem. According to this concept, we develop life positions or orientations. While growing up, our brains absorb impressions like a computer recording and storing all our experiences that lead us to adopt a certain life position.

The healthy life position is to get into an "I am okay, you are okay" mode. But some of us unconsciously get into an "I am not okay, you are okay" position. The beautiful thing is you can "reframe yourself" and rewrite these scripts.

A friend told me of her experience in rewriting her childhood scripts. She narrated, "When I was newly married, my husband and I went to a party at my brother's house. I was already a respected professional. At the end of the party, my husband asked me why I was talking and behaving like a stuttering child in front of my brother.

Past event

"This made me recall a childhood incident when I was spanked by my older brother. I did not realize that this past event made me behave like a child in front of him--very unsure of myself and subconsciously afraid of getting hurt again.

"Now as an adult, I realized that the past is gone. So, I decided to work on myself. The next time we visited my brother, I started to converse as an adult relating to another adult. My palms were sweaty but I did very well with my husband on my side. I was able to rewrite my script. This has given me freedom and confidence."

God's image

To overcome your low self-confidence, build your self-esteem. All of us have the wonderful title of being children of God, made in His image and likeness. So, in essence, we must feel equal with everyone rich and poor alike, powerful and the powerless. Our humanity is the great equalizer.

He-hello Boss!
StephB

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Experiment and start taking small risks by talking to your boss. Begin by adapting an assertive confident posture and looking at people straight in the eye. A friend with a great sense of humor tells me how he manages his fear of authority. He says he tries to remember that every morning, people in authority also sweat the "porcelain chair" just like us ordinary mortals.

If these suggestions don't work for you, go ahead and see a clinical psychologist who can help you overcome your lack of self-confidence. Keep me posted if you succeed. May you have the courage that comes from God's grace.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Working moms have plenty of career options

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

EVERY once in a while, wanderlust hits working moms, especially those of us in our mid-30s. It's a need to explore new options, peep into other roads we did not travel, take up the challenge of dreams we had dismissed in our younger years. Often, our wanderings lure us into considering new career options. Yet, we hold ourselves back thinking that women our age, with kids that challenge the time we have for work, would find it hard to compete with young aggressive executives in a depressed job market.

Advantages

Not quite true, says Cora Llamas, content editor for JobsDB, in her article for the September issue of Metro Working Mom.

There are definite advantages a 30-year-old mom has over the young job hunter. "First, you can bank on your years of experience and tried and tested abilities to get you a better job," Llamas says. "Second, you have a better grasp of industries and businesses you move in. Third, and sometimes this can be more important to your employers, your character has been refined and molded. Ideally, you should have developed the vital work habits and ethics that highly contribute to a company's productivity: commitment, willingness to work longer hours, ability to function well under pressure, sense of quality control, a desire for excellence, and company loyalty (or *malasakit*)."

In short, what an experienced working mom brings to a new job is freedom for her employer---no need to look over our shoulders, no need to worry we'll crack under the pressure of our jobs.

Job opportunities

Headhunters at Jobs DB, the leading Internet recruitment site in Asia, assure us that there are many employers who are looking for 30-somethings with these very qualities. Instead of investing in raw talent, they want people whose experiences they can draw from.

Based on their current hunts, JobsDB points to job openings that, in fact, require 30-somethings to fill the positions. Some have no age restrictions at all. They are in the areas of:

* Information technology: Plenty of opportunities are offered on the supervisory and managerial level for those 30 and above.

* Publishing: One job opening required that applicants be 35, and above.

* Sales and customer service: The only thing that these positions usually require are skills, potentials and results. It doesn't matter if you're in your late 30s and a mother with three kids. What's important is that you can meet the quota or keep the customer happy and loyal to your company.

* Accounting: 60 percent of job openings in this field have no age restrictions.

* Brand management: 78 percent of job openings do not have age specifications. Rather, most require prior experience.

* Architecture: Half of the job openings for the above 30's age group were for supervisory levels requiring years of experience.

* Banking: 80 percent of the jobs posted in this field had no age restrictions.

If you're a job-hunting working mom, don't stand in your own way by carrying your age around like it was a liability. You bring in so much more than your resume--you bring the finesse and confidence that come from raising children plus the interpersonal relationships training that no HR program can design better than motherhood can. Visit *www.jobsdb.com.ph* for more options.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom. You can write to her at mwm_abscbn@skyinet.net. *For more tips, get the latest copy of MWM with Lucy Torres Gomez on the cover.)*

ADVICE FOR ANXIOUS EMPLOYERS

Understand the whys of Generation X at work

April
July
JOB Market
Classified
October...

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Ernie O. Cecilia

WHY do young people entering the workforce hop from job to job? Why do they leave jobs that are not "fun?" Are Generation Xers not suited to the present-day workplace?

Employers' common concerns in managing GenX employees are: How can we optimize the tremendous stock of knowledge that the new generation brings into the company? How can we motivate them to contribute to corporate goals? When more than half your company's population is below 40, these questions matter much in developing a company's people strategies and programs.

Different career view

GenXers in today's workplace are young, dynamic, knowledgeable and techno-savvy. Often better educated than their predecessors, they have no egotistic illusions of immediately taking over the Baby Boomers' managerial posts.

GenXers have a different view of careers; they want quality of life and a balanced lifestyle. Outside interests are as important as their jobs and the other aspects of their lives. They work part-time to have a balance between personal and professional lives. They have the ability to perform a variety of tasks simultaneously and are therefore multi-skilled. They are results-oriented, want to finish tasks right away, and savor the sense of accomplishment.

Expectations

On the other hand, they have short attention spans, require coaching and feedback, and want straight talk from their superiors. They want to know what are the policies, how these are made or revised, what is expected of them, and what is in it for them.

They want to participate in decision-making. They are creative and innovative. At the end of the day, they want to make a difference--if they don't, they sense failure and move to where they can be better appreciated.

While it is commonly held that the young should adjust to their environment, this view may no longer be effective, especially if the young comprise the majority of the population. Some companies have realized this and are shifting their people strategies.

Most progressive companies have well-defined strategies on socialization, human resources development, and commitment to workforce diversity. These programs address issues affecting Generation X and ultimately bring out the best in their performance, lessen employee turnover, and increase employee morale, satisfaction and productivity.

Corporate brand

An organization must be able to manage the transition into a new corporate "brand"--what it wants its employees to perceive it to be--that marks them as a dynamic, market-responsive, results-oriented and caring employer. Consistent messages must be seen and heard and efforts made to match the message and the reality.

Organizations must clarify their expectations from their employees at every opportunity--during pre-employment interviews, orientations, "regularization" interviews, performance appraisal, dialogues, counseling and other processes. Managers must model the corporate "brand." Any inconsistency will send a message of dissonance to GenXers.

Qualities

What are the other qualities of GenXers that can help employers understand how they "tick?" The following statements are based on common observations.

GenXers tend to be committed to organizations that they can identify and relate with. They give their commitment to an organization where goals, roles, outcomes and consequences (positive or negative) are clear to them at the outset.

GenXers want a participatory environment and respect authority, provided the role of authority is clear and not necessarily equated with seniority or tenure alone.

GenXers are often seen as irreverent to elders. Elders must prove to them that they ought to be respected and obeyed. GenXers can play by the rules of the game, provided the rules are set fairly and clearly. Efforts must be shown to consistently reward or punish those who follow or deviate from directions, goals and expectations.

Individuality

GenXers exhibit their individuality by doing things differently while achieving the expected results. Employers should allow for non-traditional but beneficial behaviors.

GenXers are interested in career advancement; some make financial sacrifices by moving laterally rather than up the ladder.

GenXers want to know what skills and competencies will make them succeed in organizations. A prudent organization should be able to tell its employees what are its core competencies, the skill gaps in its people, and interventions for skill development.

Application of learning

GenXers want to put new learning into practice. If they are not able to apply newfound skills in an organization, they will tend to look outside where there are opportunities to use their competencies.

GenXers are comfortable with change and diversity. As children of Baby Boomers, they have witnessed and have been adversely affected by the tumult in their parents' lives.

Change catalysts

Given these qualities, GenXers may be more suited to the new workplace than Baby Boomers who had experienced some stability in their environment. GenXers are natural catalysts of change.

To manage GenXers effectively, employers must be able to communicate clearly that they value the GenXers as they are without forcing them to conform to the organization's mold.

For example, a large Filipino company pirated Dewey, a young Filipino, from a multinational company in Japan. Dewey is a member of the elitist Mensa (an association of people with high IQ), has a few patents in his name, does not wear corporate attire and is a loner who works like crazy without regard to office hours. He is not the typical corporate manager. The company exceeded its projected annual sales of Dewey's newest "invention" before the third quarter ended. In adjusting to this talented GenXer, the company reaped many benefits.

As natural attrition sets in, the Baby Boomers who had replaced the Silent Generation will soon give way to the GenXers as the latter inherit the work world. Are GenXers prepared for the enormous responsibility? How can Baby Boomers ease the transition? If you understand GenXers, the best thing to do is to let GenXers do their thing.

(Ernie is president & CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center. His career books for GenXers, "How to Get a Job" and "How to Keep Your Job" are available in popular bookstores. His email address is erniec@edsamail.com.ph. *He is a speaker at the People at Work Live! Seminar Series for Southern Luzon on Nov. 23 where he will discuss "Negotiating Your Way to Success." Call 935-6678 to register for this seminar.)*

Dreams are...

From page B0

want to start a business. What do you suggest they do?

Marlo: For most employees, they should come up with a business that does not take too much of their time. A small convenience store that they can entrust to a relative to manage during the day while the owner is at work in Makati is an example. For students or new graduates, I suggest they go into a buy-and-sell type of business. For example, they can buy cell cards wholesale and retail them at its cover price.

PaW: How can you facilitate the transition from being an employee to being the boss of your own business?

Marlo: I don't remember having transition problems when I was an employee and I started a business part-time. The balancing act lies in managing your time. But when I decided to go full time in my own business, I brought my work ethic from my workplace to my new business and gave it some more.

PaW: Any tips on how to start a business on a budget?

Marlo: Start small. Most especially if you are new in the business or if you never had a business before. It helps to dream big about your business, but in the beginning, temper your ambition and start small. Many big businesses today started very small. Jollibee started as an ice cream and sandwich store at the Quad in Makati.

PaW: How do you make your business big?

Marlo: Manage it well. In my books, there is a section there about the 15 signs that you should look out for so that your business will not fail. You should really read that part because if the 15 signs do not happen to your business, your business should be able to overcome birth pains. Once your business survives the first year, you will most likely have a long ongoing business.

PaW: What's the most important thing to remember in starting a business?

Marlo: You must have big, ambitious and lofty dreams. You must have a reason for starting the business or a goal. These dreams will push you to overcome the problems and difficulties of a start-up business. The difference between a successful business and a failed business are the dreams of the people behind that business. Dream big, and you will have a big business. If you dreams are big enough, nothing else matters!

(For more expert advice on work and career concerns, watch the People at Work segment on Tuesdays at Studio 23's Breakfast which airs weekdays from 6:30 to 8 a.m. Send feedback to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph*)*

email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Subsection Editor* **Regina Galang Reyes**

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Ignoring These Signs Can Be Hazardous To Your Hair!

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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

BUSINESS BEGINNINGS

Dreams are the stuff business is made of

By Ricky Garcia

CAN'T find a job? Start a business! But where and how to start?

Many people find it difficult to set up a business. How do you choose what kind of business to start? How do you deal with the the attendant risks? But once you get on the right track, the road to successful entrepreneurship can be filled with excitement.

On the People at Work segment in Studio 23's Breakfast recently, Marlo Sanchez shared his expertise on how to start and manage your own business. Mr. Sanchez is the author of "A Smart and Practical Guide For New Entrepreneurs" and "Be Smart! Start and Manage Your Own Business." He also has an upcoming book "Best Advice For Your Own Business" featuring Tonton Young's comic strip Pupung. He is a corporate consultant for retirement planning and entrepreneurship.

Interviewing him were Breakfast host Bam Aquino and McGraw Hill marketing executive Jenny Javier.

Below is the gist of that interview.

PaW: How do you choose what business to set up?

Marlo: Well, the best business that you can start is a business that you already know now. If you know how to make leather belts today, then go ahead and start that business right away. You should not start a business that you know nothing about or know very little about. A bakery store owned by someone who knows how to bake cakes can be more profitable than someone's bakery where the owner has no clue on how to make cakes.

PaW: What steps do you take in starting a business?

Marlo: First, look into your past. What businesses did you do or learn as a child? Did you try your hand at making *halo-halo*, cookies or bead bracelets? Second, look into your present situation. What have you learned from your present job that can be used as a business? For example, if you are managing the company cafeteria, you should be able to start a restaurant business. Third, what businesses do your friends and relatives have presently? Ask them to teach you their business. Being a copycat is no hindrance in starting a business, if someone is willing to be your mentor in that business. Fourth, are you willing to learn? Are you willing to enroll in an auto mechanics course to start an auto repair business that you know nothing about?

PaW: How do you manage the initial phase of your business?

Marlo: First, do your homework. Do a little bit of informal research. It does not have to be a thesis or a feasibility study. You must be able to answer the basic questions of who, what, when, where, why and how of the business you want to get into. Who are your customers? What is the product? How much do you charge for the product or service? How can you finance the business? Where do you open the store?

SANCHEZ

PaW: Many full-time employees or even new graduates

DREAMS/ B0

Passion
THE HUNT FOR REVOCTOBER
REVO
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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** ◎ *Chief of Correspondents* **Pam Pastor**

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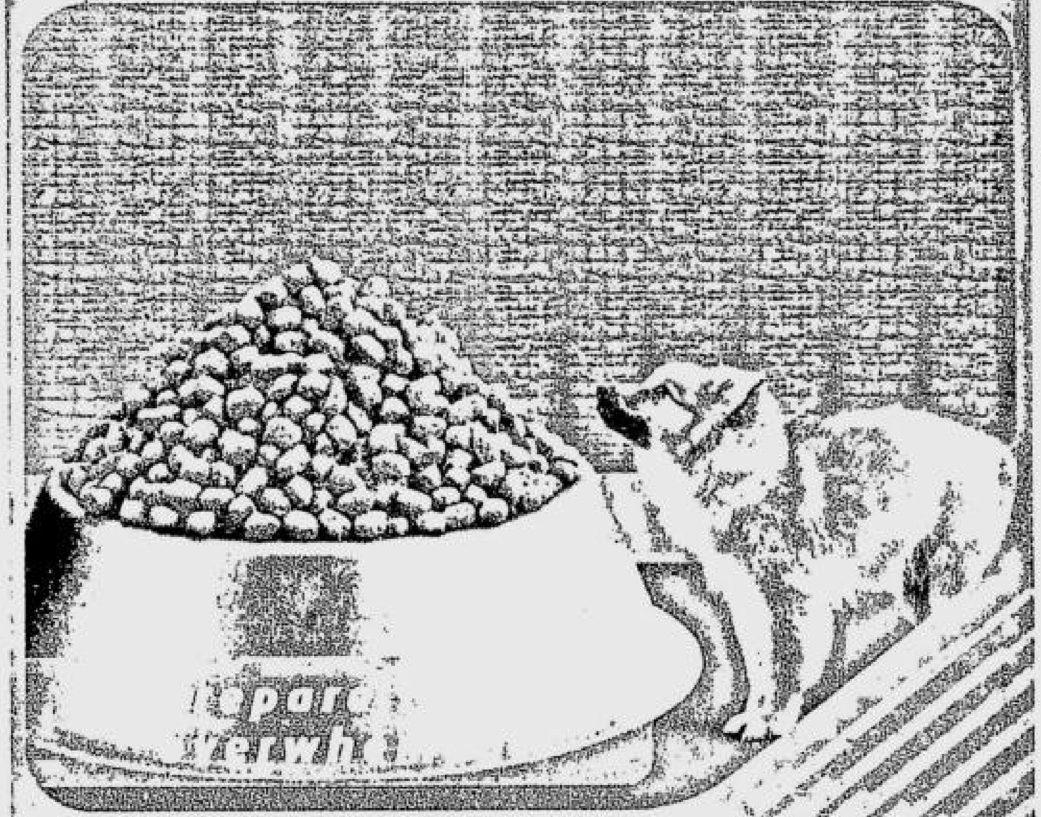

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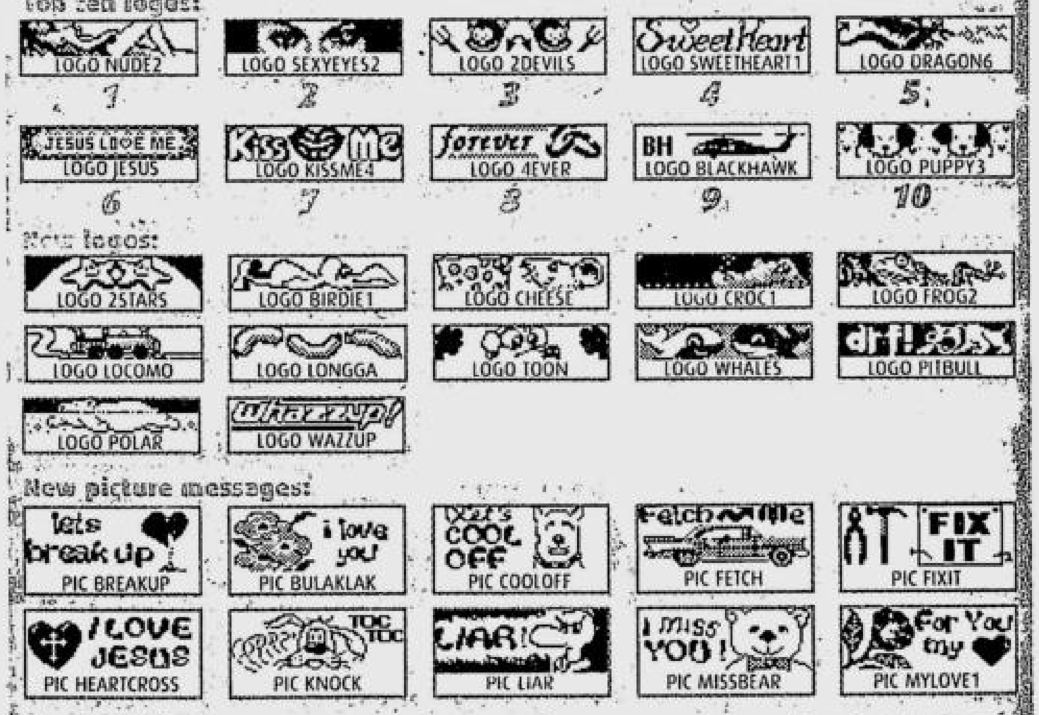
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1
LOGO SEXYEYES2
2
LOGO 2DEVILS
3
SweetHeart
LOGO SWEETHEART1
4
LOGO DRAGON6
5
JESUS LOVE ME
LOGO JESUS
6
Kiss Me
LOGO KISSME4
7
forever
LOGO 4EVER
8
BH
LOGO BLACKHAWK
9
LOGO PUPPY3
10
New logos:
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LOGO BIRDIE1
LOGO CHEESE
LOGO CROC1
LOGO FROG2
LOGO LOCOMO
LOGO LONGGA
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LOGO WHALES
LOGO PITBULL
LOGO POLAR
whazzup!
LOGO WAZZUP
New picture messages:
lets break up
PIC BREAKUP
i love you
PIC BULAKLAK
Let's COOL OFF
PIC COOLOFF
Fetch Me
PIC FETCH
FIX IT
PIC FIXIT
I LOVE JESUS
PIC HEARTCROSS
TOC TOC
PIC KNOCK
LIAR!
PIC LIAR
I miss YOU!
PIC MISSBEAR
For You my
PIC MYLOVE1

New ring tones:

Basta't Ikaw	*Jeremiah*	**TONE BASTAIKAW**
Full of Love	*Ella May Saison*	**TONE FULLOFLUV**
Ikaw Pa Lamang	*Rodel Naval*	**TONE IKAWPA**
Kahit Na Magkaibigan Lang	*Antoinette Taus*	**TONE KAHITNA**
Laging Naro'n Ka	*Jaya*	**TONE LAGINGNARON**
Mapagmahal Ako	*April Boys*	**TONE MAPAGMAHAL**
Minamahal Pa Rin	*Justin Draper*	**TONE MINAMAHAL**
Sabihin Mong Lagi	*Men Oppose*	**TONE SABIHINLAGI**
Tameme	*Jolina Magdangal*	**TONE TAMEME**
Walang Hanggan	*Ella May Saison*	**TONE HANGGAN**

Top ten ring tones:

1	Real Slim Shady	*Eminem*	**TONE SLIMSHADY**
2	Police Siren	*Zed*	**TONE SIREN**
3	Dog Barking	*Zed*	**TONE DOGBARK**
4	Fax Tone	*Zed*	**TONE FAX**
5	Connecting To Internet	*Zed*	**TONE MODEM**
6	Uptown Girl	*Billy Joel*	**TONE UPTOWN**
7	Lady Marmalade	*Christina Aguilera*	**TONE MARMALADE**
8	Farewell To You My Friends	*Raymond Lauchengco*	**TONE FAREWELL**
9	Tell Me	*Joey Albert*	**TONE TELLME**
10	Saranggola Ni Pepe	*Celeste Legaspi*	**TONE SARANGGOLA**

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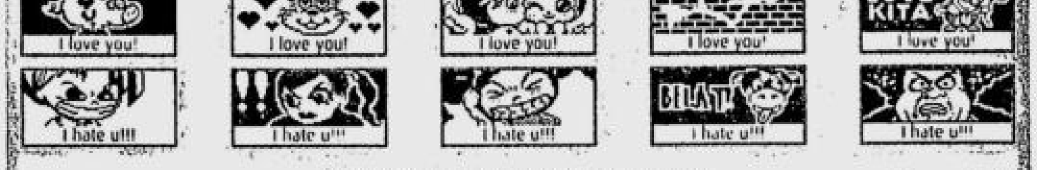
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I love you!
I love you!
I love you!
LOVE KITA
I love you!
I hate u!!!
I hate u!!!
I hate u!!!
BELAT!
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When celebrities go bad . . .

By Kristine Ching
2bU! Correspondent

THEY are considered icons in Hollywood who have gained popularity because of their talent, fashion sense and notoriety.

Shannen Doherty

She has been known for being a prima donna, which leads to fights with co-stars. Her violent behavior has attracted lawsuits. After being featured in numerous exposés and arrested for drunk-driving, she was sent to an anger-management counselling.

Doherty is best remembered for her portrayal of "90210's" Brenda Walsh and "Charmed's" Prue Halliwell. We've also empathized/sympathized with her when Kelly of "90210" stole her boyfriend. She's also regarded as a fashion icon in "Charmed."

Eminem

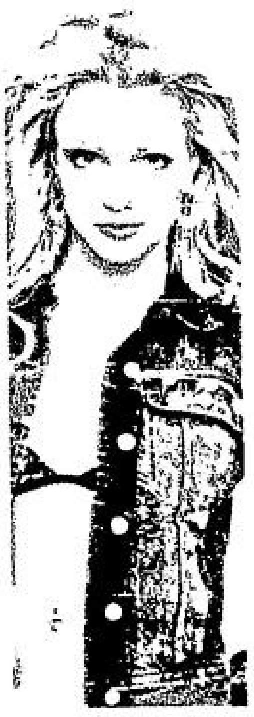
Known for dissing pop stars and anybody who criticizes him like Moby, Eminem's guts in making public his hatred is truly admirable. Why Eminem rules: We think that Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera and the boy bands deserve to be dissed.

Britney Spears

Reporters and clubbers have seen her drinking alcohol and smoking. But she has vowed to stay away from alcohol and smoking, and become celibate. There's rumor that she lost her virginity to Justin Timberlake of N'Sync. She's supposed to embody chastity, but she's always dressed in rag-like bra tops and super-low jeans. Paging Alanis to rewrite "Ironic!"

Why Britney rules: Apparently, people think she's fashionable, extremely sexy and talented.

DOHERTY


SPEARS

Jennifer Lopez

Her ego is directly proportional to her best asset.

Why J.Lo rules: We think she's a very talented artist and her songs really deserve the top spots in the charts.

Bryan McFadden of Westlife

A British magazine described him as "the one who brought back rock 'n roll to pop." He hit a member of a semi-famous group after a football match.

Why Bryan rules: Some people consider him cute. In this world, blondes, boy bands and mushy love songs always spell success.

Angelina Jolie

She refuses to reconcile with her father.

Angelina rules because of her model looks, great talent and being a nonconformist with a big heart.

Pink

She's known for her tough attitude. Members of Blue complained that Pink was rude to them during the MTV Asia Awards that was held earlier this year.

Why Pink rules: She has tough attitude and great songs.

Nick Carter

Known for: Nick's charged with, "A misdemeanor count of resisting or opposing a law enforcement officer without violence." (From E! Online)

Why Nick rules: A fan named Xara says Nick is h-o-double t, is a good dancer and sings really well. "He has a lot of tattoos, a perfect body and he makes the most sexy moves on TV," Xara continues.

E-mail the author at eve731@juno.com

What makes you bad?

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

ADMIT it or not, each one of us has a mean streak. We can't avoid those moments when, intentional or not, our little horns begin to grow. Whether it's a serious crime that would put us behind bars or a petty one like taking home bed sheets and towels from hotels, doing good is still the best alternative.

The following surely deserve some spanking, or is that bad, too?

I love finding fault in other people.—**Hema Sachdev, 20, bad in dieting**

I'm not bad. I'm an angel.—**Thea Ocana, 20, also has a bad diet**

I frequent pornographic sites.—**Marlon Martinez, 21, bad at attracting girls**

I love to laugh at other people's mistakes. I also have this habit of criticizing a person's physical appearance, even if I don't know him/her.—**Robbie Labilles, 18, bad in love**

I have an inconsistent relationship with God.—**Jayvee Margaja, 21, UPHR, bad in sports especially when it comes to balls**

I always curse my enemies every time I see them. These include the rude tricycle drivers in our area and that bulimic b--ch in my thesis class.—**Pao, 22, bad in making friends**

I make boys cry.—**Celina Ong, 21, bad with boys**

I was born a bad boy, but what pisses me off is when I see people pretend to be someone they're not.—**Shane, 20, a bad boy like Robin**

I shout at maids too often.—**Reggie Naval, 23, bad in cleaning the house**

My *ate* doesn't know that I sell her clothes and that I get rich doing so.—**Budoi, 16, obviously a bad brother**

Maluho ako kahit 'di naman ganun kayaman.—**Bibay, 21, doesn't have bad taste in music**

I'm a "*bilmoko*" girl.—**Tweetie, 19, not a bad spender**

My choco-obsession.—**Ligaya, 32, diabetic**

Whenever I go to other people's houses, *nag-uuwi ako ng* souvenirs.—**Redge, 17, bad neighbor**

I know that it's really bad and that it's all gonna come back to me, but I do enjoy wishing other people bad luck.—**Lady Baygon, 15, considers *"buti nga"* her mantra**

I admit being a user sometimes.—**Billie P., 20, emphasizes the word "sometimes"**

I have a knack for not returning things I borrow.—**Sean, 27, probably banned in VCD rental shops**

I am happy whenever I see others fail and get rejected. I delight in other people's misery.—**JB Ladines, 24, always happy**

My little white lies, and those huge black ones as well.—**Jasper Cajigo, 19, looks bad in black**

My parents don't know that, for the longest time, I haven't been the innocent, conservative little girl that they used to know. I guess that's bad.—**Wella Ford, 17, loathes Nick but digs Aaron Carter**

I am cheating on my girlfriend right now.—**Isa, 23, reportedly not bad in bed**

I used to like shoplifting a lot—just for the fun of it.—**VST, 19, doesn't shoplift anymore**

My desire to excel. Sometimes, I tend to push too hard and offend people around me.—**Maximino Perez, 25, not a bad lover *daw***

I once tore the photo of Jude Law's face from the cover of "The Talented Mr. Ripley" issue inside National Book Store, and kept it.—**Mackee, 27, still has that Jude picture**

I crumpled and messed up a classmate's project before passing it to the Prof.—**Vanessa Jane Javier, 21, bad classmate**

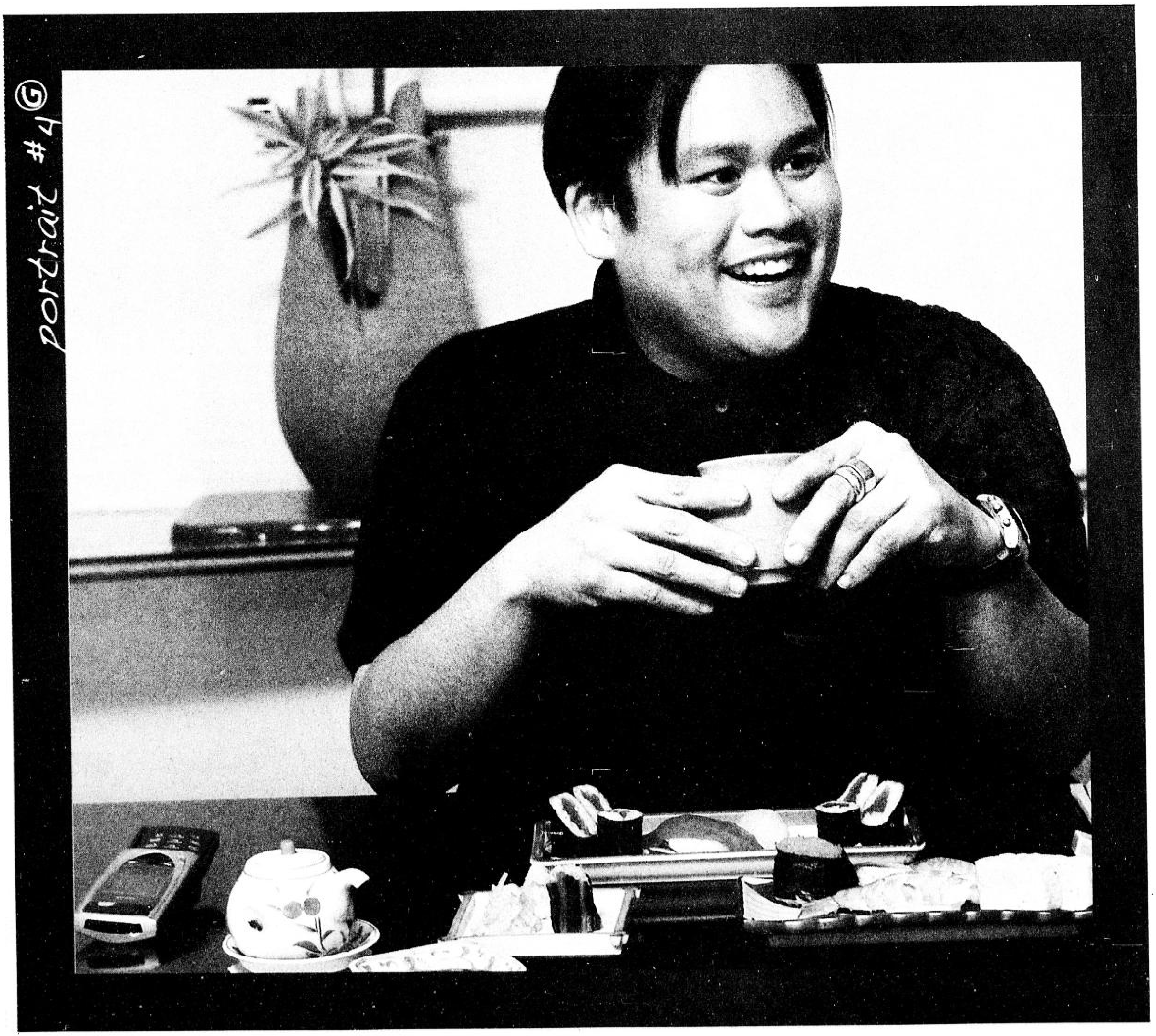
I curse a lot.—**Lucky Rubio, 15, bad little boy**

My tendency to forget or neglect myself in order to please others.—**Andrea Louise, 17, not entirely a bad person**

My chronic *kupit* capabilities.—**Buneknek, 24, bad daughter (since she usually makes *kupit* from her mother)**

I kill—cockroaches, with passion. My boyfriend says I'm a murderer but I don't think so. —**May Joy, 16, obviously hates cockroaches**

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com



She wants to forget her feelings for a friend

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I'm 18, a college freshman. I have a classmate who has the same surname as mine, but we're not related to each other.

He's Leon (not his real name), 20, a very nice guy. He's understanding, friendly, open-minded, humorous, responsible and honest. He loves to crack jokes, but at the same time he can mend people's broken hearts. That's why he is well-loved.

Leon and I were close friends—we once called each other cousins. But because of his charming attitude, I fell in love with him.

However, our friendship turned sour. Maybe because he already knew that I have fallen in love with him. My mom also told me that I shouldn't take it seriously because I'm still studying. My friends have always reminded me that I should forget him.

I tried to forget my feelings for him and value the friendship instead, but I've failed. Are my feelings that bad? Am I really too young to fall in love? What am I supposed to do?

CLAIRE REDFIELD

It's sometimes sad, our interpretation of connections. Our belief, faith and passion are often simply an exercise in jousting with windmills. They are part of the incomplete, insecure psyche of society that forces us to find the match made in heaven; and if God refuses to give us a sign, we turn to Hollywood to give us faith.

The more dramatic the situation, the more lofty the ideals, the more attractive it is. In fairness, I, too, believe in betting against the odds.

For example, I'm saving up enough money to attend a major tennis ATP or Grand Slam tournament because I believe in love at first set. But secretly, I think all those beautiful sportswomen who spend hours at the net wish that, just one day, someone with feet of clay will romance them, knowing exactly what to say before, during and after asking a dedication with autograph on their balls. And, quiet please, thank you, love-all, Mrs. Hingis-Garchitorena serves.

Sometimes, if you fight hard enough, you'll get a feeling of near-victory, but when you get there, that sacred place, when your heart is thumping, your hands are cold and you can't feel your legs, you realize that maybe you got more than what you had bargained for. I will admit that I am filled with bewildered admiration that Ateneans got this far in the game—and they seem to do so every year—but the bitter, ignominious curses from the stands, the jeering and the bratty behavior lead me to think that belief in winning is not all that wins a championship.

For the spectators, it is the acceptance of the very misfortunes in life that make us real. The beauty of the game is in the competition, which, unfortunately, leaves only one victorious on the hardcourt.

When we see that everyone benefits from losing once in a while and sacrificing your defeat to the unquestionable excellence, that which is loftier and more noble than any victorious, or untouchable by protest and angst, then it will be time to move on, and you can approach sports and love with that willingness to be simply a bit player, a mere participant, cheering the best aspects—those which you would not have beaten if you tried.

CALOY

Once you've told Leon about your feelings for him, the ball is already out of your court. There is nothing left for you to do, save for bugging him about why is he reacting like this, and I believe that's the last thing that you'd want to do, right?

There was nothing wrong in telling him that you've been feeling more than friendly toward him. Only, you should have very carefully thought about what happens after. The truth doesn't always set you free—in your and Leon's case, it has even constricted your friendship and created limitations that were never there before. You might say that nothing should have changed because you'd still act the same way around him but, apparently, Leon isn't too comfortable with it. But "should-haves" don't really matter anymore and there is nothing left for you to do except to ride out the situation as best as you can.

Heartbreaks are painful, I know, but they also don't last forever. You never know how resilient the heart is. The point is, don't drive yourself crazy thinking that you fell short of Leon's standards, that you haven't done or said the right thing, or that you haven't done enough. You've said your feelings out in the open; it's already out of your hands.

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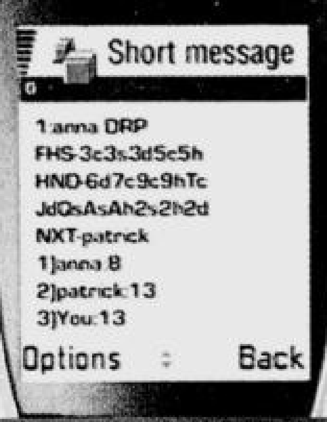

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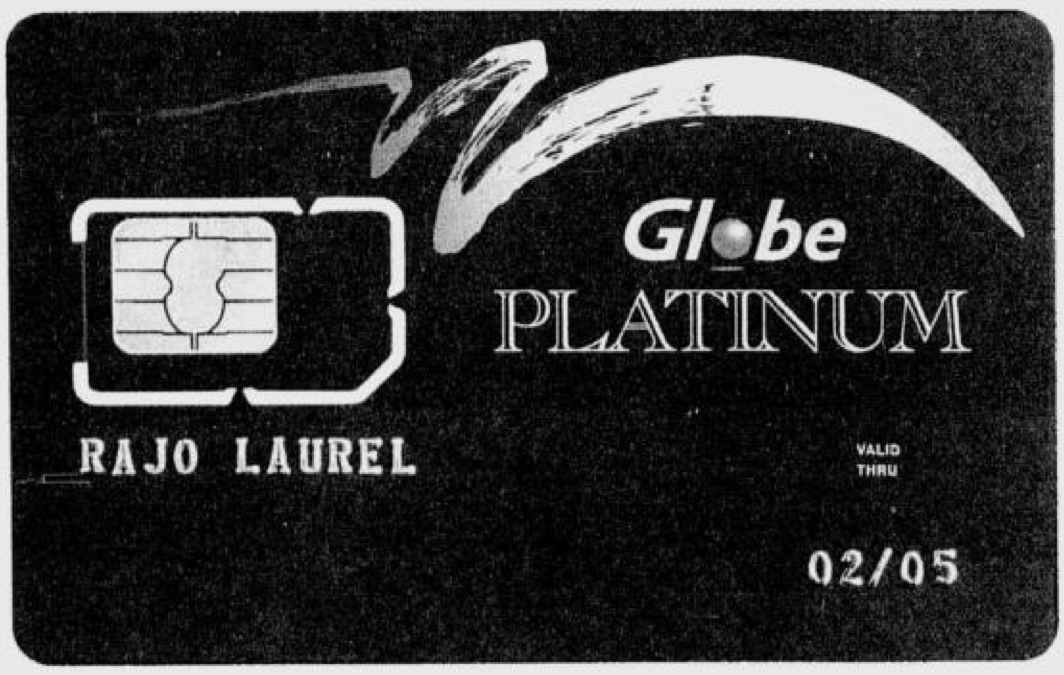

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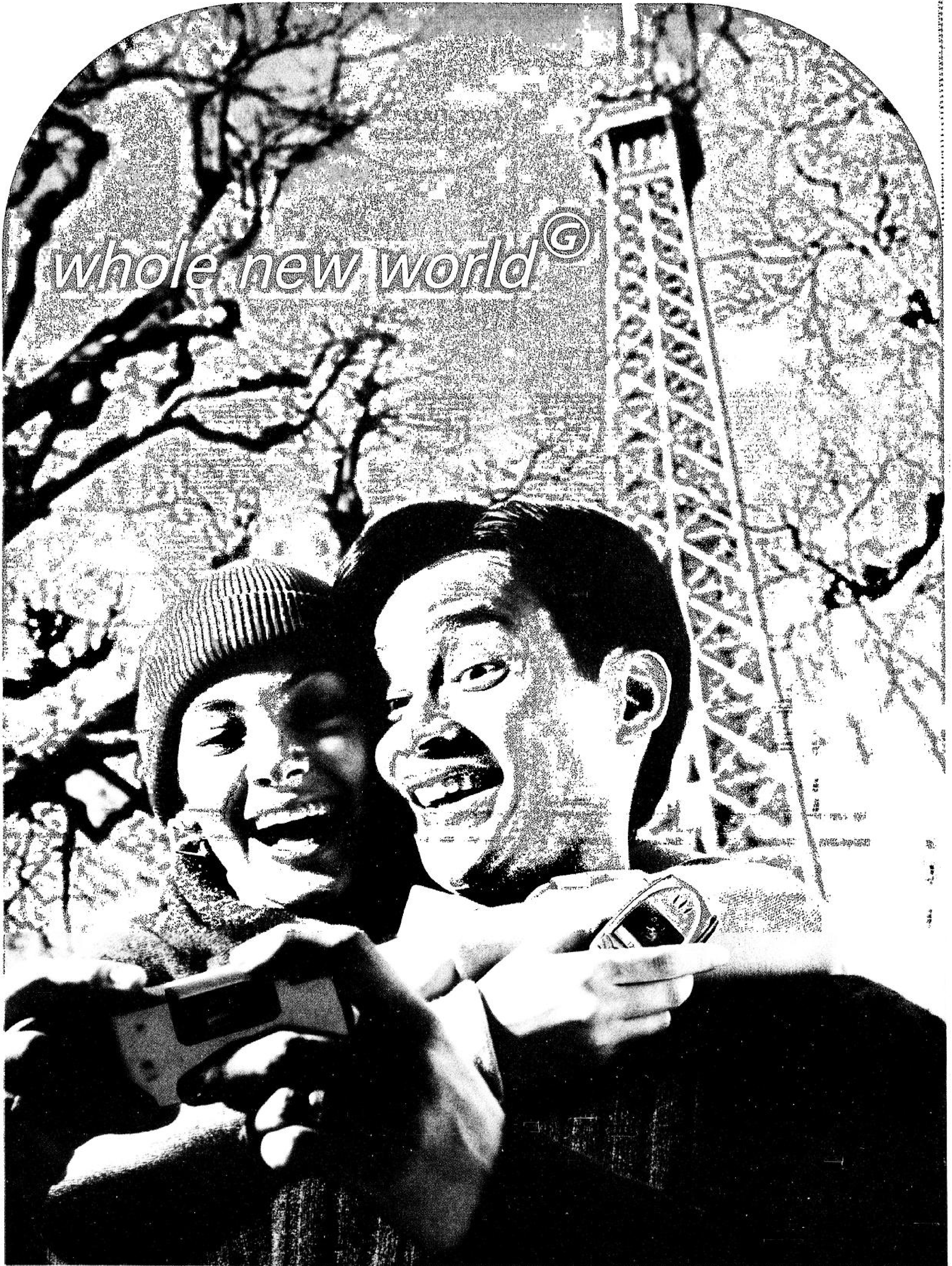

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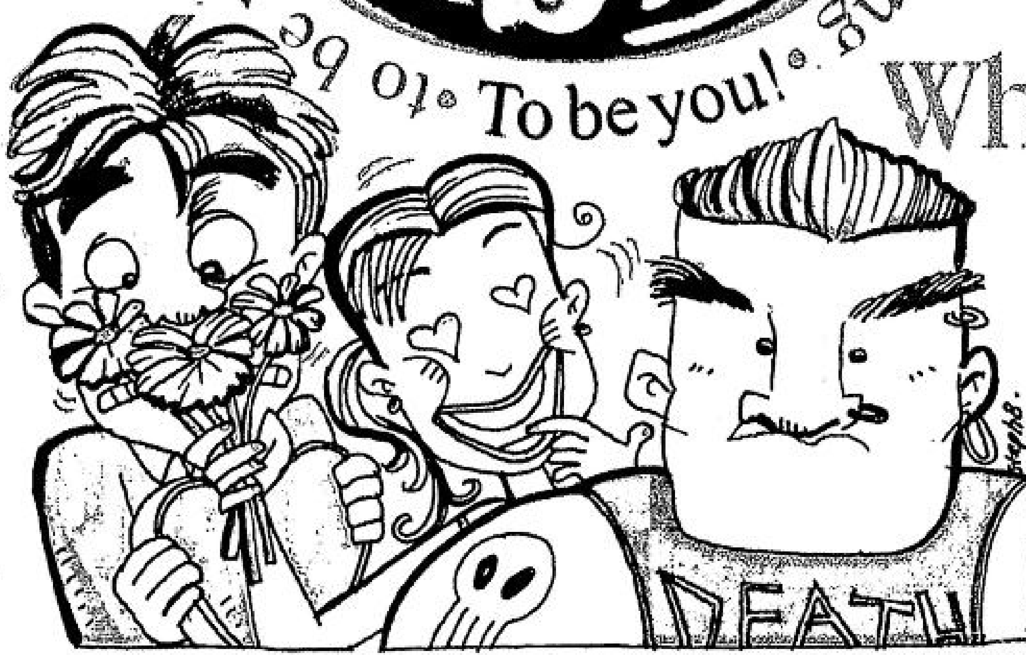

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Story on page D2

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Why girls go for Mr. Bad

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

"*ALAM mo why are girls like that*?" a guy friend once asked me. "You girls always go for the bad guys *kahit na masasaktan kayo*."

He has a point. Why do girls usually go for bad boys? At least those who look bad? Between the University of the Philippines' Fighting Maroons Jonjon Tabique and Jayr Reyes, most *iskas* would usually go for the rough and rugged Jayr Reyes than the angelic-looking Jonjon Tabique.

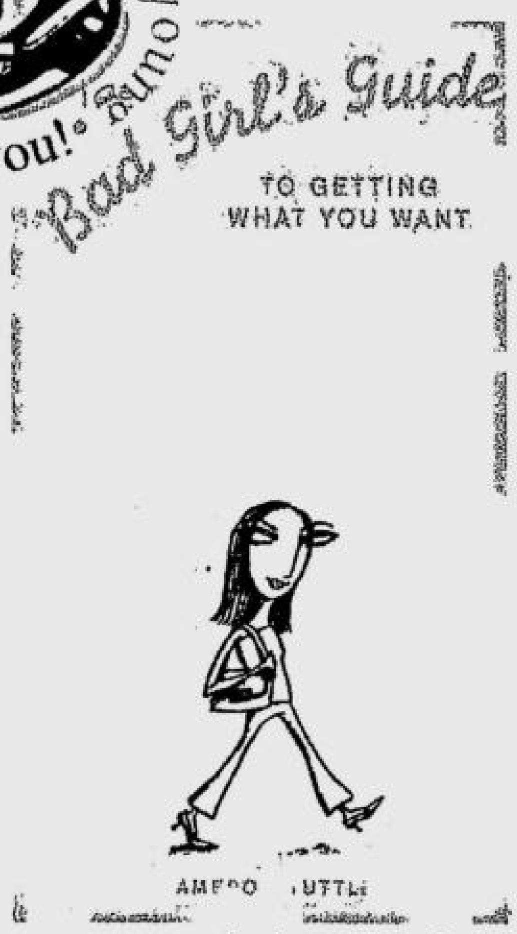
Okay, let's get some people more familiar. Everyone would probably go for the gritty and gutsy John Hall than for Mr. Nice Guy Dennis Trillo. It made me wonder why girls go for the really "bad" guys.

I asked around, from my classmates in Soc Sci to my co-cadets in ROTC, why girls love bad guys. And I found a number of reasons.

- Women have this hidden desire to be outraged. Since most Filipinas live straight-cut lives, a bad boy offers a wide variety of headaches to choose from. "*Hay naku*! He never calls me when he gets home from a *barkada* night-out." This is the usual line of hundreds and hundreds of women out there. But after a few *lambing* from the guys, girls would usually forgive and forget. Admit it, girls, you have this urge to become a martyr.
- The thrill of getting a bad guy and keeping one is very exciting for most women. If you could get a really hot bad guy and be his girl, then you would be on the road to popularity. This is the reason why varsity players and fratmen are considered hot.
- It's the "astig" factor, baby. Every woman wants a guy who's tough, someone who can and will protect her no matter what. In times like these when criminality is really high, it helps to have someone who can beat up practically anyone.
- The expectations are lower. If your bad guy does something bad, you won't really care that much. Once your guy does something really sweet and nice, you'll be the envy of everyone in the block. If your good guy does something bad, you'll go crazy.
- Bad boys offer a sense of excitement. Bad boys offer girls a sense of the unexpected, of adventure. They're interesting, and being with guys like them offer excitement. Sometimes good guys can be really boring.
- Girls want guys they can tame. Most girls have this motherly instinct in them that prompts them to get wild guys whom they can control and nurture. Turning bad guys into good guys provides these girls a sense of accomplishment.

A bad boy doesn't necessarily mean a guy who's into drugs and violence-prone. We want guys who exude a certain confidence. It's really hard to define *astig*. It's that certain thing that we know exists but we can't exactly zero in on. I personally believe it's all in the attitude. It's all in the way a guy carries himself or how he walks into a room. We want guys who are men in the real sense of the word.

E-mail the author at s_a_l_e_e_m_a @yahoo.com



Good book for bad girls

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

CAMERON Tuttle's "The Bad Girl's Guide to Getting What You Want" is a fun, entertaining and seemingly helpful handbook every true b--ch, b--ch wannabe or trying-hard b--ch would want to include in her little library. The metallic lavender cover appears too dull for the book's colorful content. But once a reader gets past the cover, she will find the book a real page-turner.

Chapter 1 is called "The Big Swirl." It features a list called "In Bad Company," which enumerates bad girls in the worlds of sports, movies and music, among others. It also offers solutions to not-so-typical problems and some useful suggestions on how to get what you want in life. An amazing chart shows the typical transformation of a girl from good to bad in about a week, MWF. For example, one girl has a recurring anxiety dream Mondays. Wednesdays, the dream changes and becomes about sex and Fridays, the girl delights in recurring sex. Truly wicked, but not for the very young.

> Whether you're seriously looking for a manual on how to improve yourself or for a witty, fun, fast-read, this one is definitely it

Chapter 2 is all about dating. It has a portion on alternative dating and dating yourself. Since men are essential to straight women rafing to go out on a date, it also talks about men. "The Man Translator" explains what men really mean when they utter certain lines, "Seductive Secrets" gives some tips on how to get a man into your web, and "How to Know What You Want and How to Get It," which uhm...helps you know what you want and how to get it.

Chapter 3 is titled "Getting a Job." It has a segment called "Your Fab Job Finder," which helps you realize what occupation is best for you given your biggest problem. For example, if you gossip constantly and people hate you for it, then maybe you can be a public relations executive. Also included in this chapter are suggestions on how to say no without really saying no, believable alibis you could readily use with your superiors and how to deal with your office rivals.

The last chapter, "Getting a Life," covers the other stuff not included in the three previous chapters, like tips on how to be a bad influence and how to lose a bad girlfriend. One portion offers helpful advice for problems in the house—how to be revenged on your roommate, and some seriously feasible décor ideas that convert junk into funk.

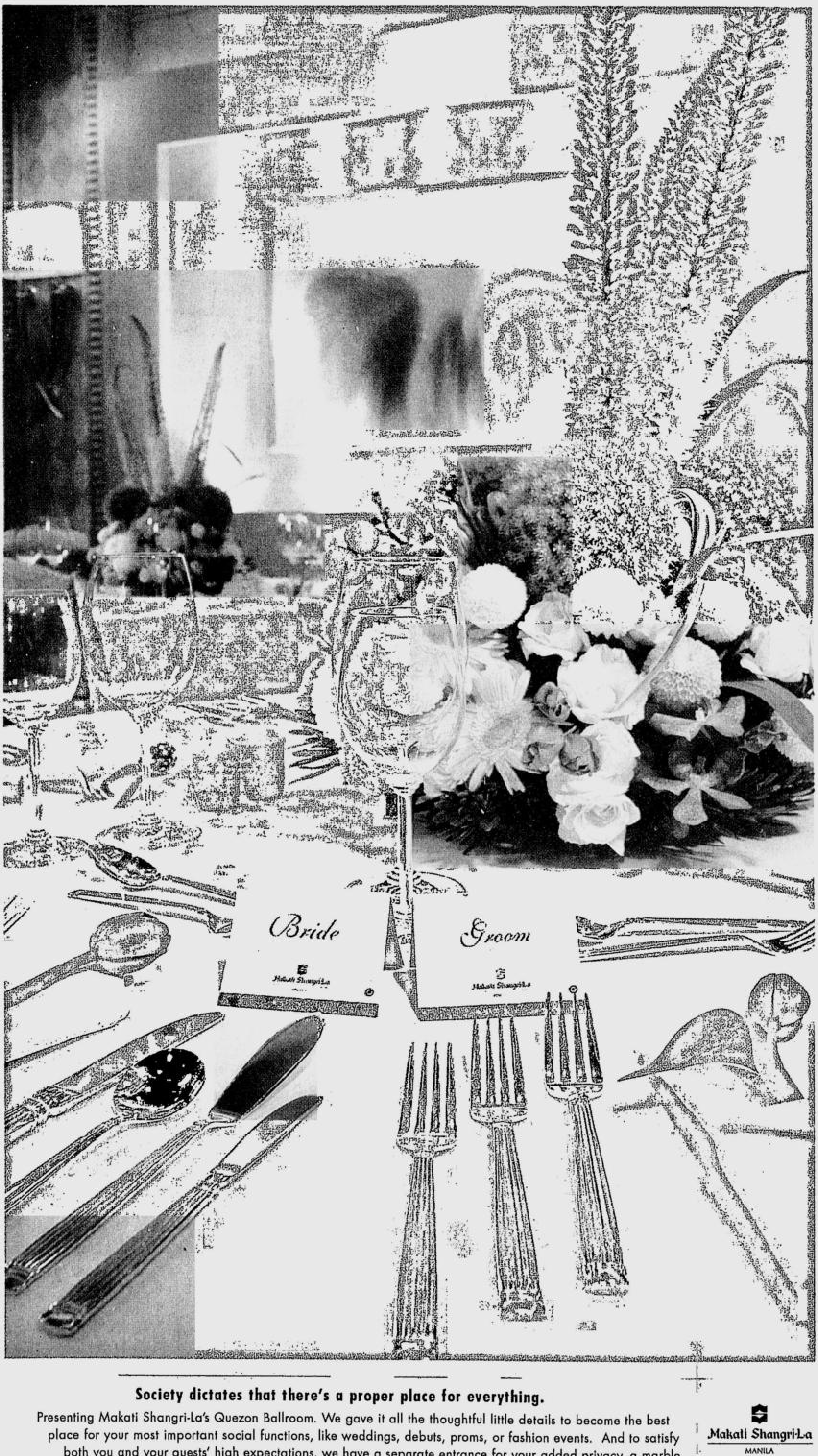
The book is sprinkled with witty to-do lists, like what to do with your pantyliners, your boss' business card, post-its, toilet paper, photos of your evil ex and your old bridesmaid dress. They are truly hilarious and the illustrations hit the bull's eye.

Definitely a huge part of the book's allure are the illustrations of Susanna Bettag. Having done drawings for magazines like Seventeen and Ms., Bettag's cartoons are hip, very now, and they deliver the message.

Whether the book is trying to be cute or not, it succeeded in being quite charming. It doesn't contain detailed instructions on how to murder someone, but the book manages to be devilishly fun. Whether you're seriously looking for a manual on how to improve (or worsen?) the bad "you" or are just looking for a witty, fun, fast-read, this one is definitely it. You could even just browse through it in a bookstore and not pay P779. Not bad.

Tuttle's other books are "The Bad Girl's Guide to the Open Road," "The Bad Girl's Guide to the Party Life," and "Be a Bad Girl, a Journal." All books are available at PowerBooks.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com



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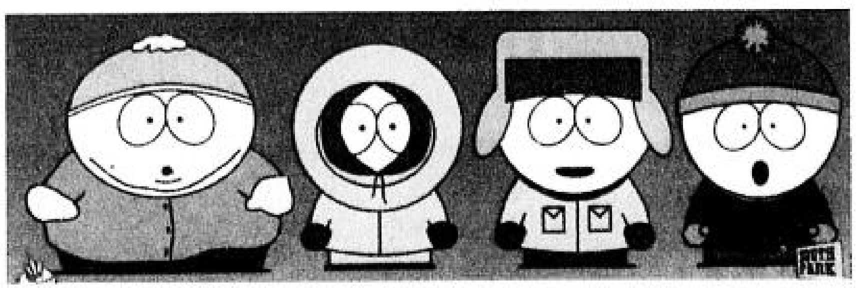
Boob tube becomes dumber

Trashy shows on TV have increased while programs with substance are down

By Lisa Marfori Sobreviñas
2bU! Correspondent


SOUTH PARK. Cartman, Kenny, Kyle and Stan

WHEN I was younger, I was always either reading a book or watching television. I preferred to stay home because I was happy doing either of those two things.

As a kid growing up in the 1980s, the TV shows I used to watch were "Rainbow Brite," "The Cabbage Patch Kids," "My Little Pony and Friends," "Carebears" and "The Smurfs." Maybe the most violent cartoons I ever watched as a child were "Voltron," and "The Transformers," maybe even "Thundercats." I watched a lot of "Sesame Street" and "Batibot," too. I don't recall ever watching "bad" TV shows when I was growing up.

As a young adult, I can say TV has changed a lot over the years. Trashy shows on TV have increased while programs with substance are down.

Comedy Central's South Park, one of cable's top-rating cartoon shows, proudly declares that it features "crimes against humanity." They tackle everything from drugs to pedophilia, condom use to masturbation, and even porn theaters to molestation. The characters, like Kenny and Cartman, are cute, but what they talk about and involve themselves in is not.

Music Television's Celebrity Deathmatch boasts of being "the world's leading provider of claymation carnage." This isn't a cartoon show but animation using clay figures. It even has hosts, Johnny Gomez and Nick Diamond, to broadcast every bloody, deadly move the clay celebrities make in the arena. Although it only has clay images, it's really a violent show with lots of what they call "celebrity casualties." Celebrities like Bill Murray and Chris Kattan have been pitted against each other in this show. And there's the classic Britney Spears vs. Christina Aguilera death match where they stabbed each other's breasts, among other things.

TV at its worst

Of course, many of us are familiar with another "bad" TV show from MTV, The Osbournes. Starring old-time rocker Ozzy Osbourne, his two weird kids and pink-haired wife, this show has been called "reality TV at its best." If you ask me, I think it's TV at its worst. All you ever get from the 30-minute show is a dysfunctional British family who curses every ten seconds. I don't find it cool at all. Why an entire show on the life of a has-been rocker is telecast all over the world is beyond me. Why many people watch it puzzles me even more.

MTV, so popular with people my age, also features regularly music videos that border on the obscene and disgusting. Rappers' videos are often violent and brutal.

Cartoon Network's late-night show Adult Swim joins my list of crappy TV shows. You'd think Cartoon Network would show only cartoons for kids but no. Adult Swim is for the older crowd who are insomniac or don't sleep at all.

It features a rotating variety of cartoon shows. Among others, there's Aqua Teen Hunger Force, which has already shown a cat being squashed flat right before your eyes (you'd think they'd censor that). There's Home Movies, which has tackled inane things like romantic relationships between eight-year-olds, and The Brak Show, featuring teenage space pirates. Harvey Birdman, attorney-at-law, mocks the judicial system and pokes fun at well-loved cartoons in our past.

Japanese exports

Animé is another phenomenon that has rocked the TV industry. Sure, ratings have soared because of the Japanese shows but at what cost? Animé TV shows like Samurai X, Chin Chan and Ran Ma have little to do with Filipino culture and they have started to distort the minds of the young (maybe even the old?). The shows have so much violence, fighting, bloodshed, cursing, sex and nudity.

The American counterparts of these Japanese productions would have to be Beavis and Butthead, and Ren and Stimpy. Even Tom and Jerry and Cow and Chicken, no matter how adorable they may be, can be bad for kids who still can't tell good from bad, right from wrong. Even WWF (World Wrestling Federation) is violent, especially for kids. Wrestlers hit and whack each other with chairs and other objects for no good reason but to make piles and piles of money. It is really strange that despite being scripted, boys and men still watch the show.

There are many other shows that are "bad" but I just have to mention Temptation Island. The show's plot (if it can be called that) is very uncomplicated. Four couples are selected to go on a holiday in some exotic, romantic island. On the island, groups of men and women are waiting to seduce them away from their partners. The show features sex and delves into people's private love lives. It encourages infidelity and is a load of crap. Good thing it's been cancelled.

I'm not puritanical and prudish, as you might assume after reading this. It's just that I grew up watching TV shows that made sense. Some weren't so good, but they were not as bad as what we have today. Cable has a lot to do with this situation.

But our values have also changed that we are now unable to tell good from bad TV. The disappearance of harmless, feel-good shows like "The Flying House" is a sign of how people have changed. I still prefer to stay in my room either reading or watching TV. But these days, I've been doing more reading than watching.

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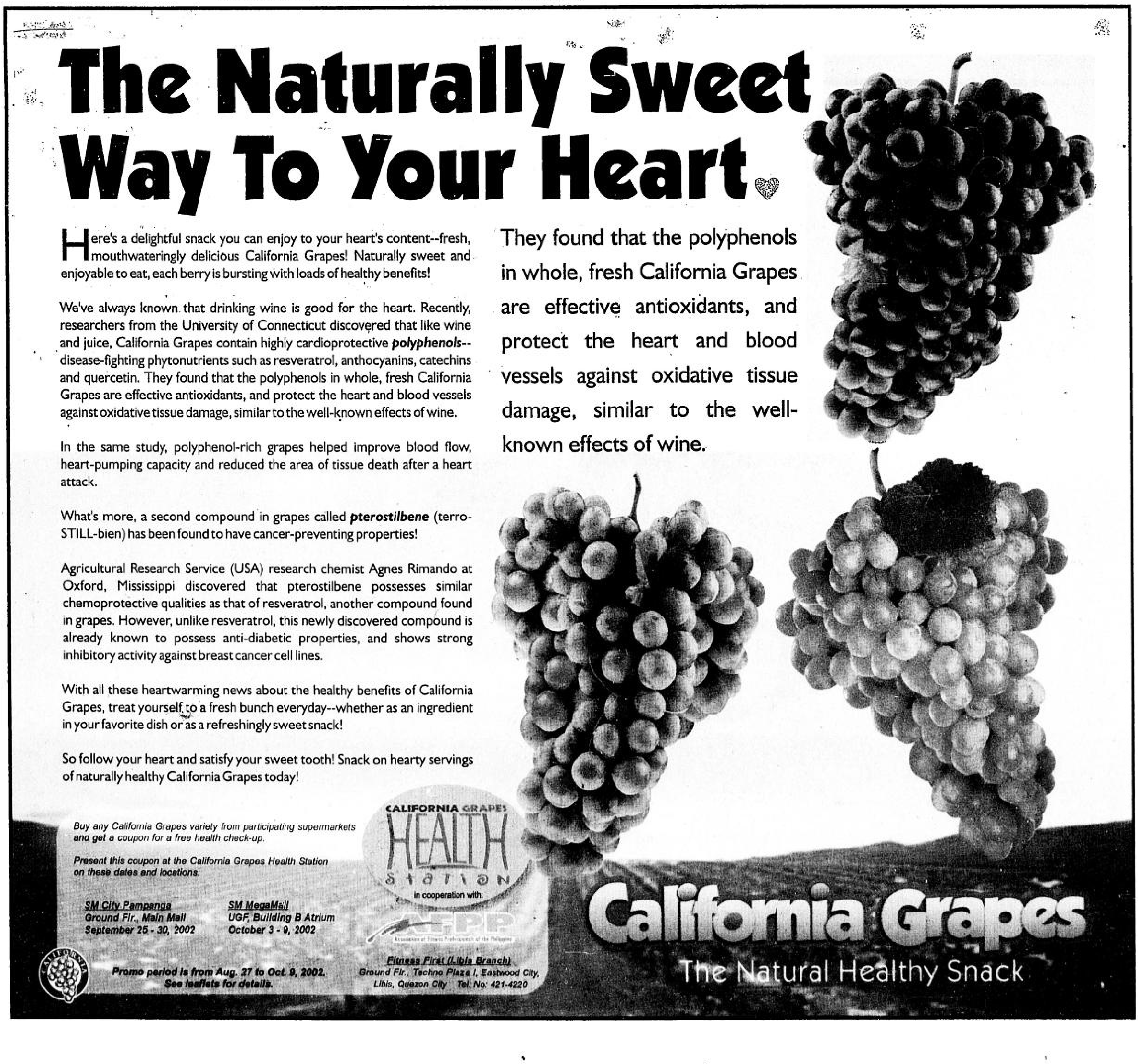
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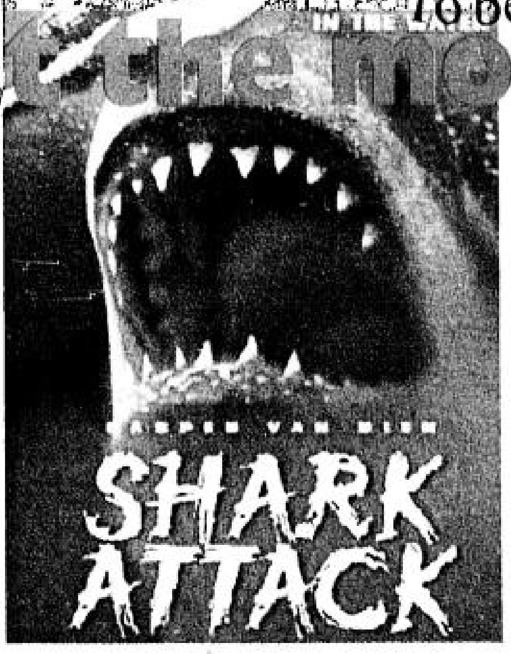
Stories on pages E5, 6 and 7

I lost it at the movies



No, not that.
I lost my intelligence because of stupid movies

By Jayvi Aruta
2bU! Correspondent

WE'RE big on movies, and that's not a bad thing. You have to feel proud that Filipinos get to see many new movies before most of our neighbors. We also get quite a broad spectrum of films—not just American ones. It warms the heart of a movie fan like me to see a packed showing of movies like "Amelie" and the many offerings at the recent Cinemanila International Film Festival.

So maybe, some members of the audience were trying a little too hard. But hey, at least they're trying. People are starting to get over their fear of foreign languages. People are becoming more comfortable with the idea that not all good movies come from the US.

With the good comes the bad, and the bad stuff is horrible at best. I almost run over people as I shake my head in disgust at movie billboards I pass on the road. You can tell by the ads that lots of moviegoers are suckers for a cheap sales pitch or fad. Remember those monster animal movies that came out just a few years ago? Uninspired scare flicks such as "Anaconda," "Deep Blue," and "Lake Placid" hit the screens one after the other.

B-movies

Soon after, we were treated to "King Cobra," "Shark Attack" and "Crocodile"—the first of a whole slew of monster B-movies trying to get a leg up on one another. Not that there hadn't been many before. Some were even shameless enough to parade as a sequel when there wasn't a single person in it who was in the first. Aren't rip-offs of good movies hard enough to bear? There should be a gruesome monster that goes after lousy movie directors and producers, so they can make use of their own cheesy dialogue:

"Grarrgh!!!"

"Oh no! Run!!!"

"Chomp!"

"Ahhhh!!!"

Yup. Just desserts. The same goes for the guys who keep making Richard Grieco and Michael Biehn "blockbusters." Do these actors have some kind of cult following I don't know about?

And where there is mindless violence, mindless sex cannot be far behind. There was a time not too long ago when there had to be at least two softcore skin flicks in every theater in town. I'm all for skin if it contributes to the story, even if it's for a good laugh. Depth is probably rare in movies with raunchy titles. Or posters that proudly cite other cheap, nasty films.

Movies like these don't make it far past seedy theaters and video store bargain bins in the countries where they're made. Dare I ask why they get so much exposure here? Oh right, right... the people who vote anything that talks a good deal will watch anything that can come up with a good tagline. And haven't local promoters ground those into the dirt as well?

"Pare, '*bumubulusok na aksyon!*' This I gotta see!" Admittedly, it would be a waste of energy throwing stones at foreign moviemakers. One, because they're just so far away, and also because there's more dirty laundry in our backyard. Us telling them to make better movies is like Vanilla Ice teaching Eminem how to rap.

Make your own

But I have gone undercover and discovered their secrets. Now you can make your very own Filipino movie. All you need is a *tambiolo* and a Magic 8-ball. Parts are to be assigned randomly. To save time and money, use this method to simultaneously select your cast and crew. If your dog draws "lead writer," let him have a go at it! You never know when that spurt of artistic creativity may come along. Pass the Magic 8-ball between cast members. Have them ask, "Will I die in this movie?" No second chances—just run with it.

If the *tambiolo* hands you a lousy plot, spice up your movie with a love team. They are to be drawn at random as well. Make sure everyone knows if your leading lady takes her shirt off in the movie. Put her right in the middle of your poster, preferably in a seductive situation. Show plenty of skin, and stir up the hornet's nest of censors. You know it will be approved eventually, so why worry?

With the exception of a few films I can count with my fingers, the local film industry is a schlock machine. They rip off plots, music... even entire scenes. Does no one ever notice that? At the end of the day, they run away scot-free with your money. Well, they know how to sell themselves. They are good at something, after all. No wonder so many of them become politicians. Here's a hot election tip, by the way: They can't really beat up 20 guys all by themselves.

Is a decent Filipino movie really too much to ask? All I'm saying is that if we toss our heads back like mindless hatchlings, we'll get all kinds of crap shoved down our throats.

As far as money goes, we've got it made. Movies here are, in comparison, dirt cheap to see in theaters, to rent or even to own. International film festivals elsewhere will charge you at least four times the rate of our "expensive" theaters to get in.

Blowing your savings on movies is not exactly the smartest way to spend money. But if you do, at least do it for the ones that are worth a couple of hours of your life.

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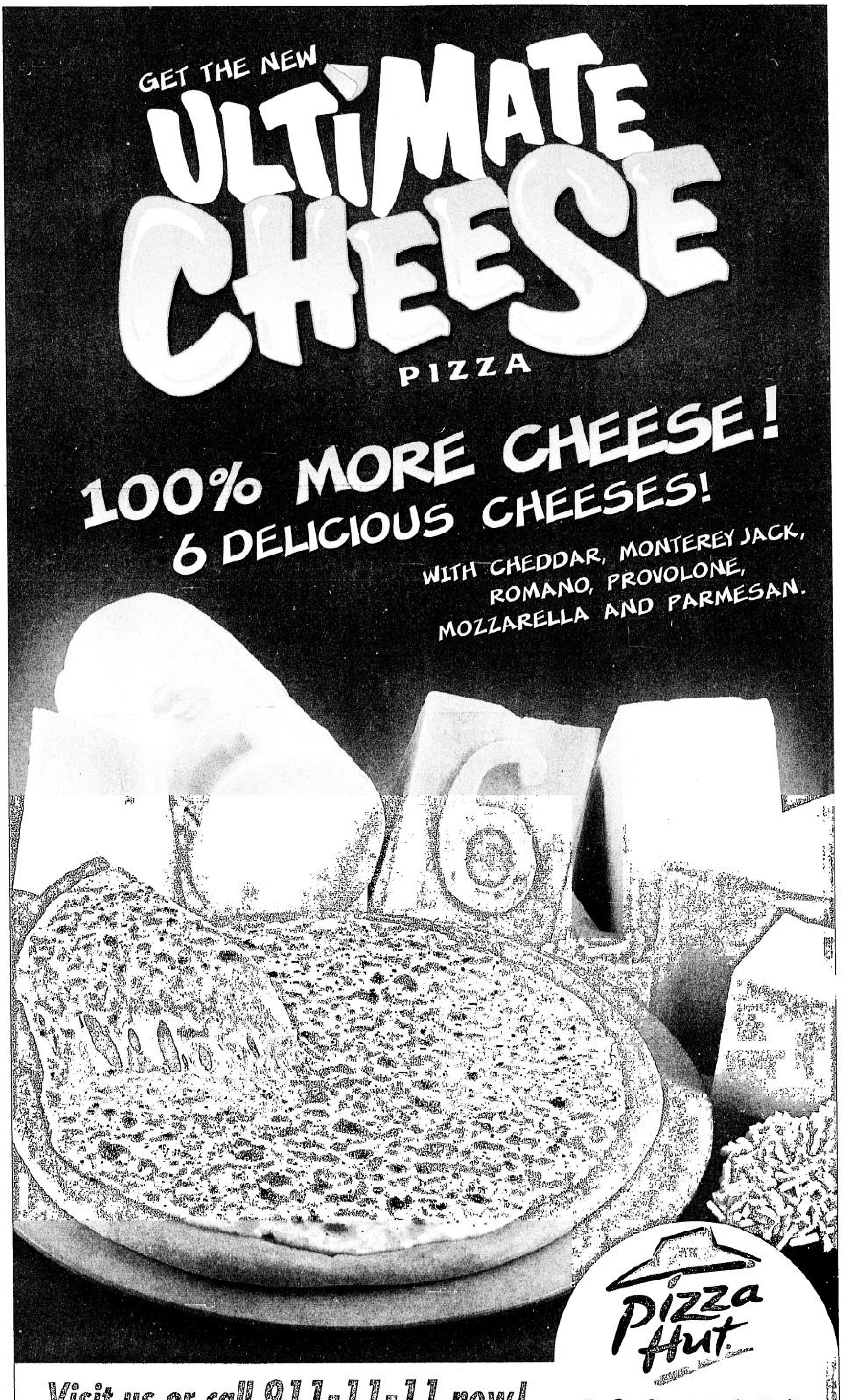
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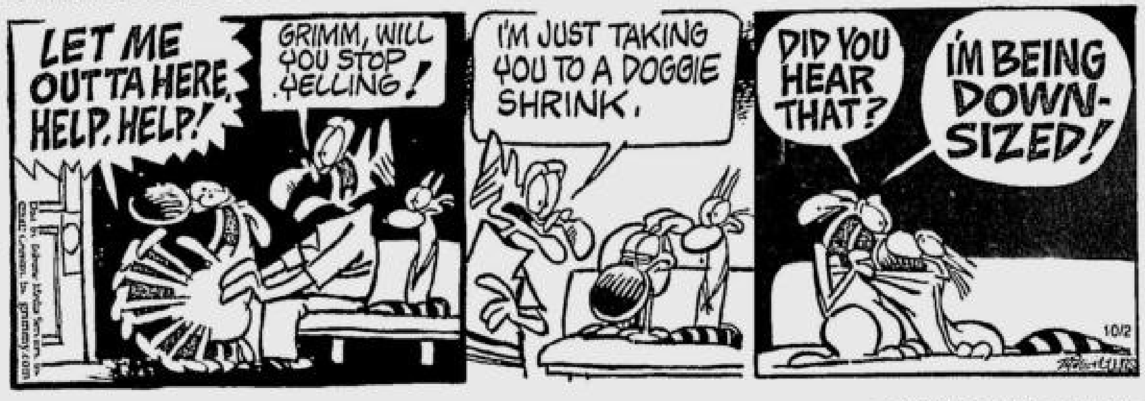
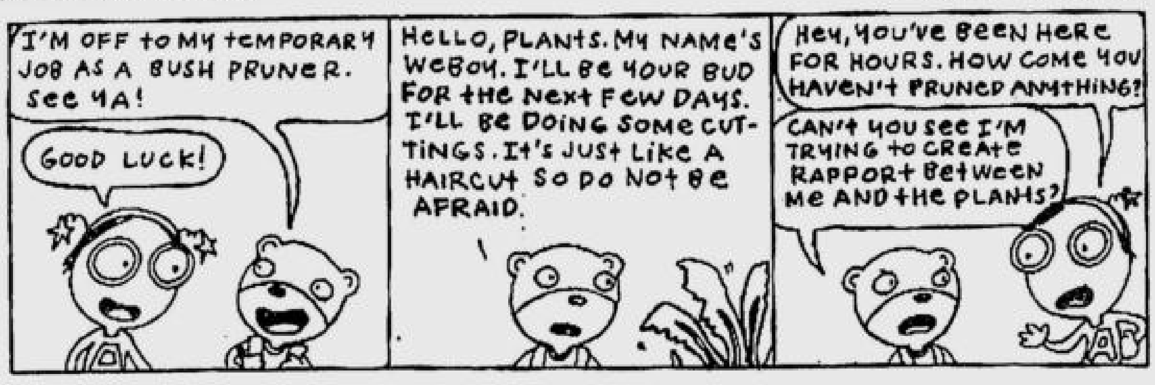
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


LET ME OUTTA HERE. HELP. HELP!
GRIMM, WILL YOU STOP YELLING!
I'M JUST TAKING YOU TO A DOGGIE SHRINK.
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
I'M BEING DOWN-SIZED!
10/2

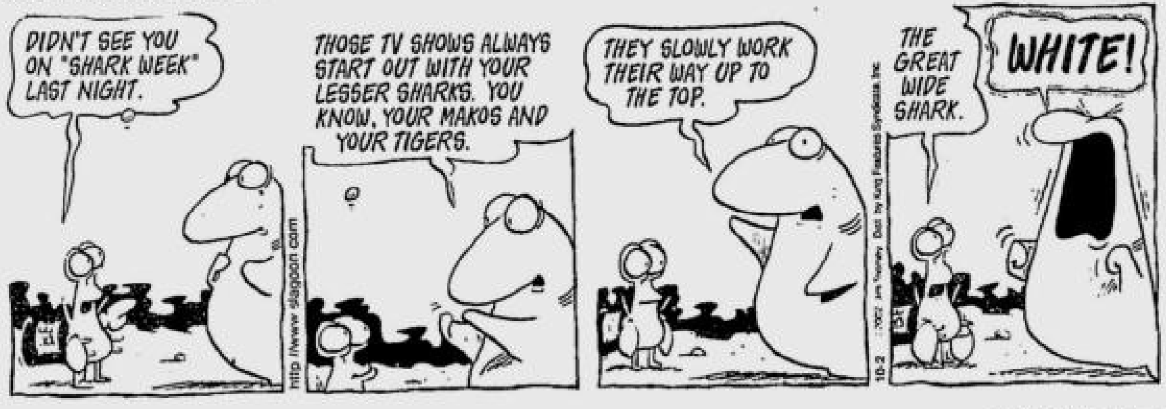
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M OFF TO MY TEMPORARY JOB AS A BUSH PRUNER. SEE YA!
GOOD LUCK!
HELLO, PLANTS. MY NAME'S WEBOY. I'LL BE YOUR BUD FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS. I'LL BE DOING SOME CUTTINGS. IT'S JUST LIKE A HAIRCUT SO DO NOT BE AFRAID.
HEY, YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR HOURS. HOW COME YOU HAVEN'T PRUNED ANYTHING?
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M TRYING TO CREATE RAPPORT BETWEEN ME AND THE PLANTS?

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


DIDN'T SEE YOU ON "SHARK WEEK" LAST NIGHT.
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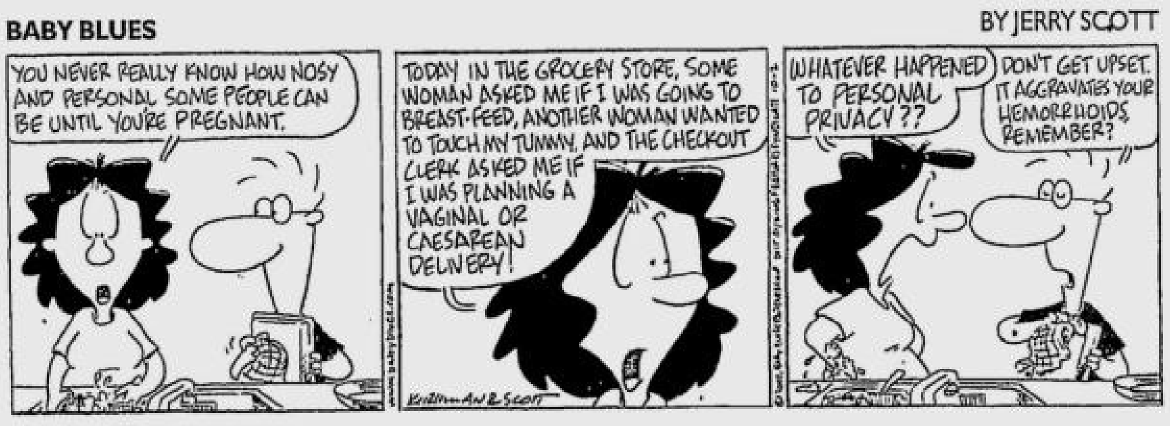
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU NEVER REALLY KNOW HOW NOSY AND PERSONAL SOME PEOPLE CAN BE UNTIL YOU'RE PREGNANT.
TODAY IN THE GROCERY STORE, SOME WOMAN ASKED ME IF I WAS GOING TO BREAST-FEED, ANOTHER WOMAN WANTED TO TOUCH MY TUMMY, AND THE CHECKOUT CLERK ASKED ME IF I WAS PLANNING A VAGINAL OR CAESAREAN DELIVERY!
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PERSONAL PRIVACY??
DON'T GET UPSET. IT AGGRAVATES YOUR HEMORRHOIDS, REMEMBER?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Donna Karan, Sting, Mike Rutherford, Lorraine Bracco

Happy Birthday: Don't be too shy to ask for help this year. Your tendency to take on way too much will lead to unfinished business if you don't get the help you require. Setting your priorities will be a must. You'll do just fine if you focus on what and who is important to you. Your numbers are 14, 23, 25, 27, 33, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is a great day to get into activities that will include children. Consider doing something that will improve your appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Avoid making important decisions in your personal life. You are not thinking clearly and this will interfere with your logic. You may want to get some feedback from someone who knows you well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your communication skills make you an excellent spokesperson for those less fortunate. Take action if you have strong beliefs regarding certain situations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Added responsibilities will be burdensome. Try to recruit family members to assist you. Try to achieve some balance in your personal life and your work at the office.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You must be sure that you don't offend others with your blatant remarks. Think before you speak. Don't neglect your partner or take him/her for granted..

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't push your luck if you are traveling. Authorities will not be forgiving when it comes to speeding. Be supportive and encouraging with children especially one you haven't been spending time with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Donations made today will be appreciated and will enhance your feelings of self-worth. Use your intuition to create ideas that will help others be more self-sufficient.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Those closest to you will probably create difficulties. Don't try to push others into doing things your way. If your loved ones need room to breathe, give them the space. Don't set a time limit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will derive the excitement you require from journeys of any length. You shouldn't be reckless while driving: Go easy and you will have a wonderful but still exciting time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take care of paperwork. Look into any minor health problems that have been plaguing you. There are no serious problems. Rest is probably what you need most.

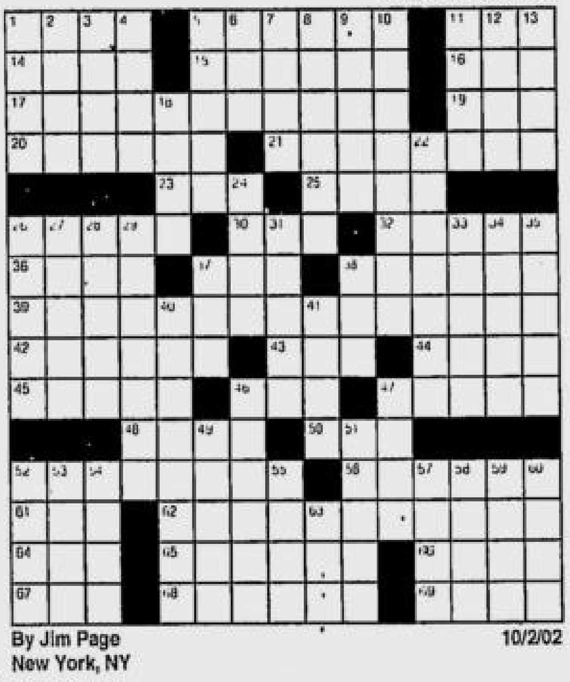
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will feel anxious because of arguments with your loved one. Remain impartial and confront situations one by one. Search out situations that will give you both what you need.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Cater to your lover's desires. It's time for a major house cleaning so that you can discover what you actually have stuffed in your closets.

Birthday Baby: You will be very disciplined, cautious and in need of praise. You will have opportunities to accomplish whatever you want throughout your life, but you will have to be willing to take lots of chances. Don't fear change.

DAILY CROSSWORD

.TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Jim Page
New York, NY

10/2/02

ACROSS
1 Sushi choice
5 One of the Finger Lakes
11 Interdiction
14 Mimic
15 Sports venues
16 $ promise
17 Car feature
19 Big bang letters?
20 Involve
21 Lets go
23 100 yrs.
25 Attention getter
26 Expire
30 Take steps
32 Moved furtively
36 "Dies __"
37 Blond shade
38 Defeated
39 Car feature
42 Informed against
43 Dine
44 Mirth
45 Move in a sudden sweep
46 Circle section
47 Oracles
48 River to the Caspian
50 COLAs' reason
52 Animated Disney classic
56 Bloke Down Under
61 Abandon the truth
62 Car feature
64 Period
65 Channel-swimmer Gertrude
66 Art school subj.
67 Psychic's letters
68 Purify sea water
69 Ring rulings, briefly

DOWN
1 Adhesive strip
2 Informed about
3 Ex-Speaker Gingrich
4 Vicinity
5 Knitting stitch
6 LAX info
7 Peter O'Toole movie, "My Favorite __"
8 Like a broken promise
9 Highlanders
10 Estimated
11 Fractions of a byte
12 Top-drawer
13 Out of one's gourd
18 Jambalaya ingredient
22 On the loose
24 "Bad Riddance" author
26 Glasgow elevators
27 Cupid's missile
28 Italian movie director, Pier __ Pasolini
29 Emit
31 Shout of encouragement
33 Of service
34 At no time
35 Patella sites
37 Arista
38 Three-letter sandwich
40 Number one
41 Apiece
46 Skirt styles
47 Strike heavily
49 Stage whisper
51 West Point student
52 Take a powder
53 Pretensions
54 Tidal situation
55 Gillette blade
57 Louver
58 Submerged
59 Golfer Aoki
60 Guessed figs.
63 Pipe bend

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	A	M		B	E	S	T	S		M	O	R	N
H	I	R	E		Y	A	H	O	O		O	B	O	E
O	M	I	T		F	R	O	O	T	L	O	O	P	S
O	N	D	E	M	A	N	D			I	N	L	E	T
			O	A	R	S		O	H	M				
M	E	R	R	Y			S	C	O	O	P	E	R	S
A	L	E		B	I	A	N	C	A		E	L	O	I
G	L	A	Z	E	D	D	O	U	G	H	N	U	T	S
M	I	R	O		E	M	B	R	Y	O		D	O	S
A	S	S	E	G	A	I	S			A	V	E	R	Y
				U	L	T		D	A	R	E			
G	R	A	V	Y			B	I	R	D	C	A	G	E
L	I	F	E	S	A	V	E	R	S		T	R	O	T
A	G	A	S		D	I	N	G	O		O	L	G	A
D	A	R	T		E	A	T	E	N		R	O	O	T

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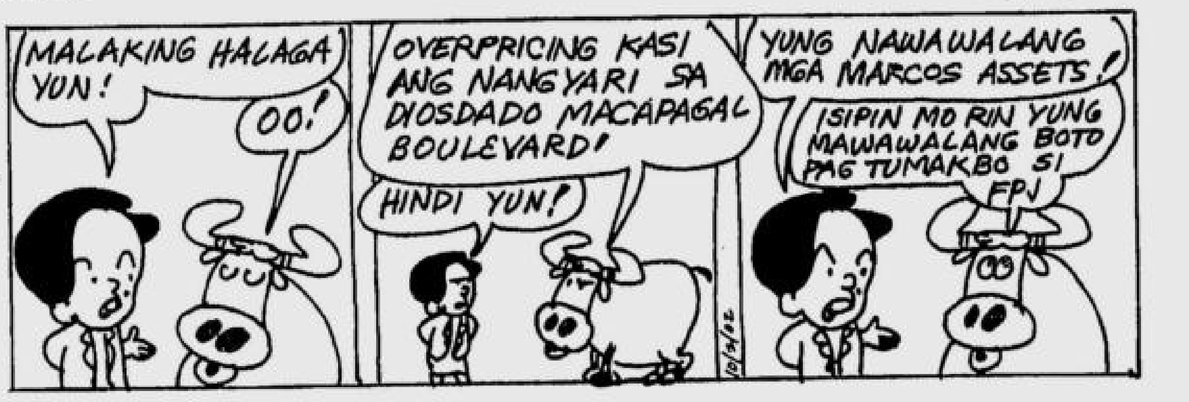
10/2/02

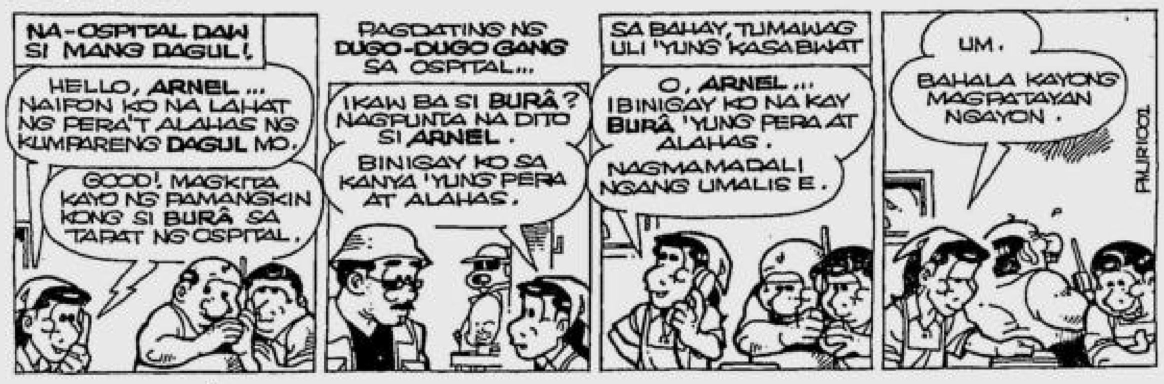
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALAKING HALAGA YUN!
OO!
OVERPRICING KASI ANG NANGYARI SA DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL BOULEVARD!
HINDI YUN!
YUNG NAWAWALANG MGA MARCOS ASSETS!
ISIPIN MO RIN YUNG MAWAWALANG BOTO PAG TUMAKBO SI FPJ

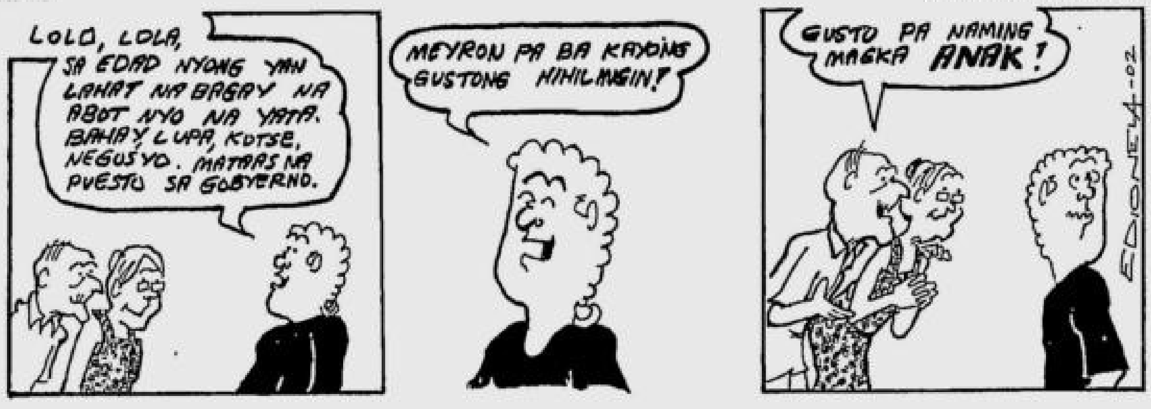
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NA-OSPITAL DAW SI MANG DAGUL!
HELLO, ARNEL... NAIPON KO NA LAHAT NG PERA'T ALAHAS NG KUMPARENG DAGUL MO.
GOOD! MAGKITA KAYO NG PAMANGKIN KONG SI BURÂ SA TAPAT NG OSPITAL.
PAGDATING NG DUGO-DUGO GANG SA OSPITAL...
IKAW BA SI BURÂ? NAGPUNTA NA DITO SI ARNEL.
BINIGAY KO SA KANYA 'YUNG PERA AT ALAHAS.
SA BAHAY, TUMAWAG ULI 'YUNG KASABWAT
O, ARNEL... IBINIGAY KO NA KAY BURÂ 'YUNG PERA AT ALAHAS.
NAGMAMADALI NGANG UMALIS E.
UM.
BAHALA KAYONG MAGPATAYAN NGAYON.
PJURIO01

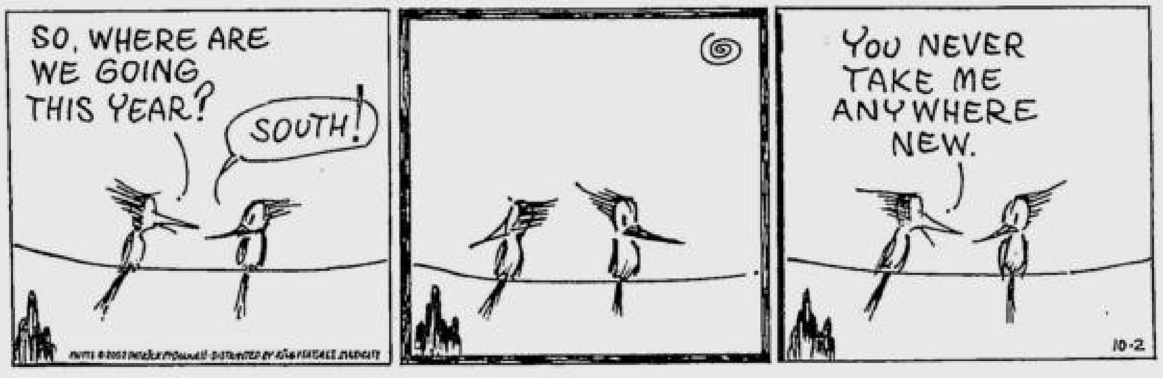
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


LOLO, LOLA, SA EDAD NYONG YAN LAHAT NA BAGAY NA ABOT NYO NA YATA. BAHAY, LUPA, KOTSE, NEGOSYO. MATAAS NA PUESTO SA GOBYERNO.
MEYRON PA BA KAYONG GUSTONG HIHILINGIN?
GUSTO PA NAMING MAGKA ANAK!
EDIONELA-02

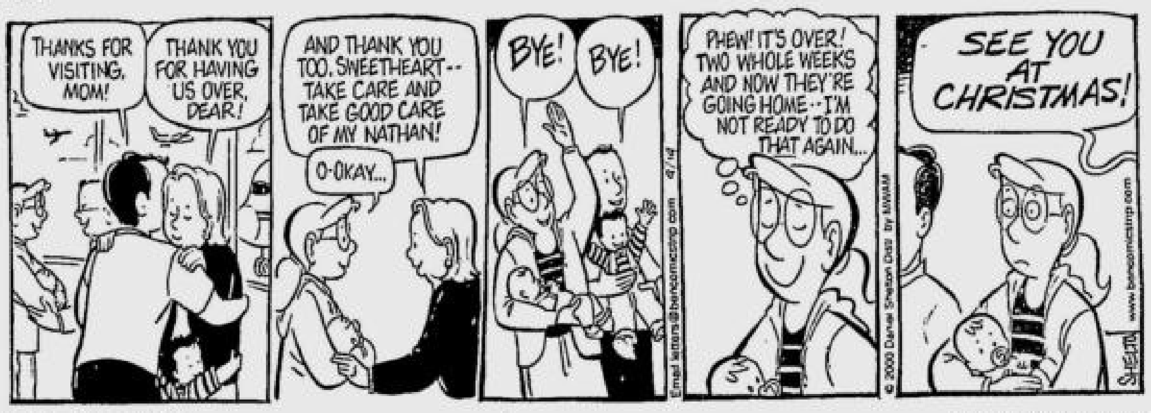
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SO, WHERE ARE WE GOING THIS YEAR?
SOUTH!
YOU NEVER TAKE ME ANYWHERE NEW.
10-2

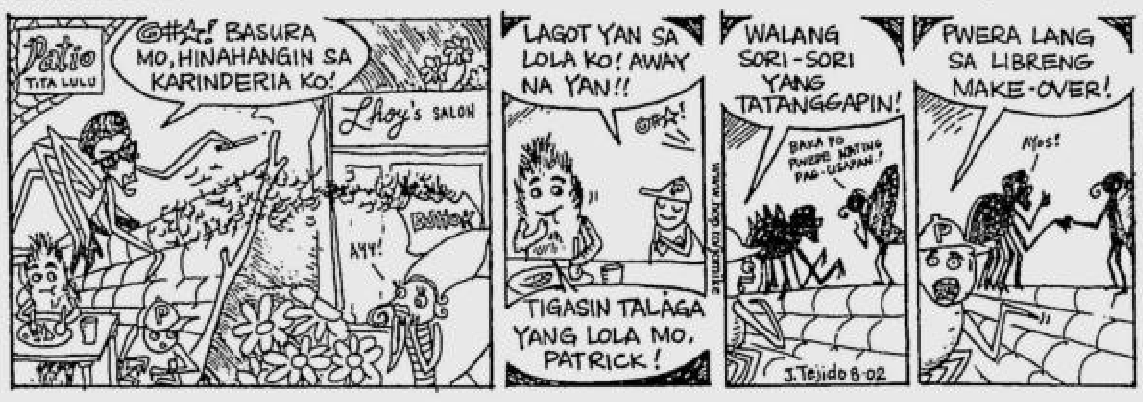
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THANKS FOR VISITING, MOM!
THANK YOU FOR HAVING US OVER, DEAR!
AND THANK YOU TOO, SWEETHEART-- TAKE CARE AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY NATHAN!
O-OKAY...
BYE!
BYE!
PHEW! IT'S OVER! TWO WHOLE WEEKS AND NOW THEY'RE GOING HOME--I'M NOT READY TO DO THAT AGAIN...
SEE YOU AT CHRISTMAS!
www.bencomicstrip.com

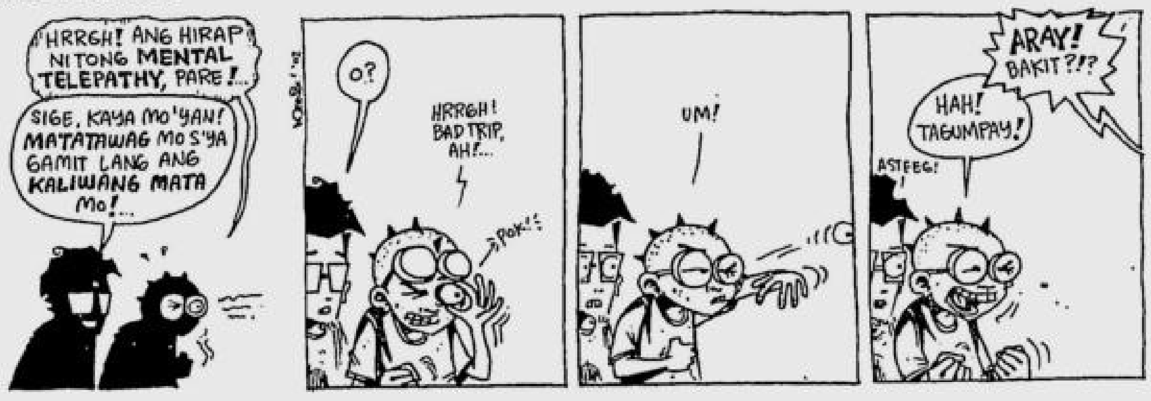
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


Patio TITA LULU
@#☆! BASURA MO, HINAHANGIN SA KARINDERIA KO!
Lhoy's SALON
AYY!
LAGOT YAN SA LOLA KO! AWAY NA YAN!!
TIGASIN TALAGA YANG LOLA MO, PATRICK!
WALANG SORI-SORI YANG TATANGGAPIN!
BAKA PO PWEDE NATING PAG-USAPAN!
PWERA LANG SA LIBRENG MAKE-OVER!
Nyos!
J. Tejido 8-02

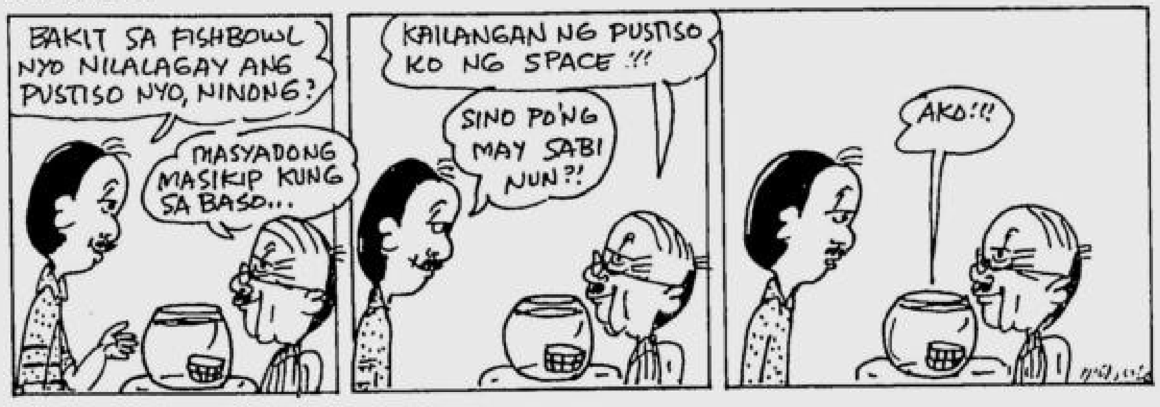
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HRRGH! ANG HIRAP NITONG MENTAL TELEPATHY, PARE!...
SIGE, KAYA MO 'YAN! MATATAWAG MO S'YA GAMIT LANG ANG KALIWANG MATA MO!...
O?
HRRGH! BAD TRIP, AH!...
POK!
UM!
ARAY! BAKIT?!?
HAH! TAGUMPAY!
ASTEEG!

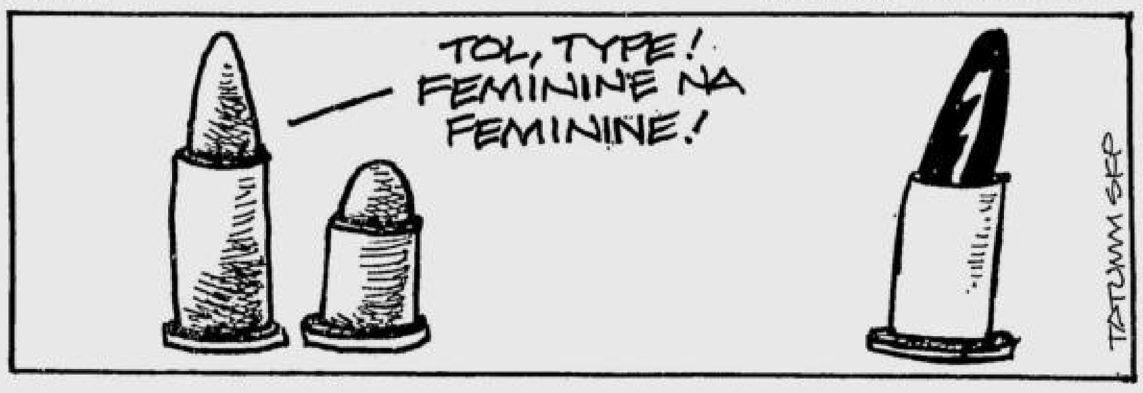
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

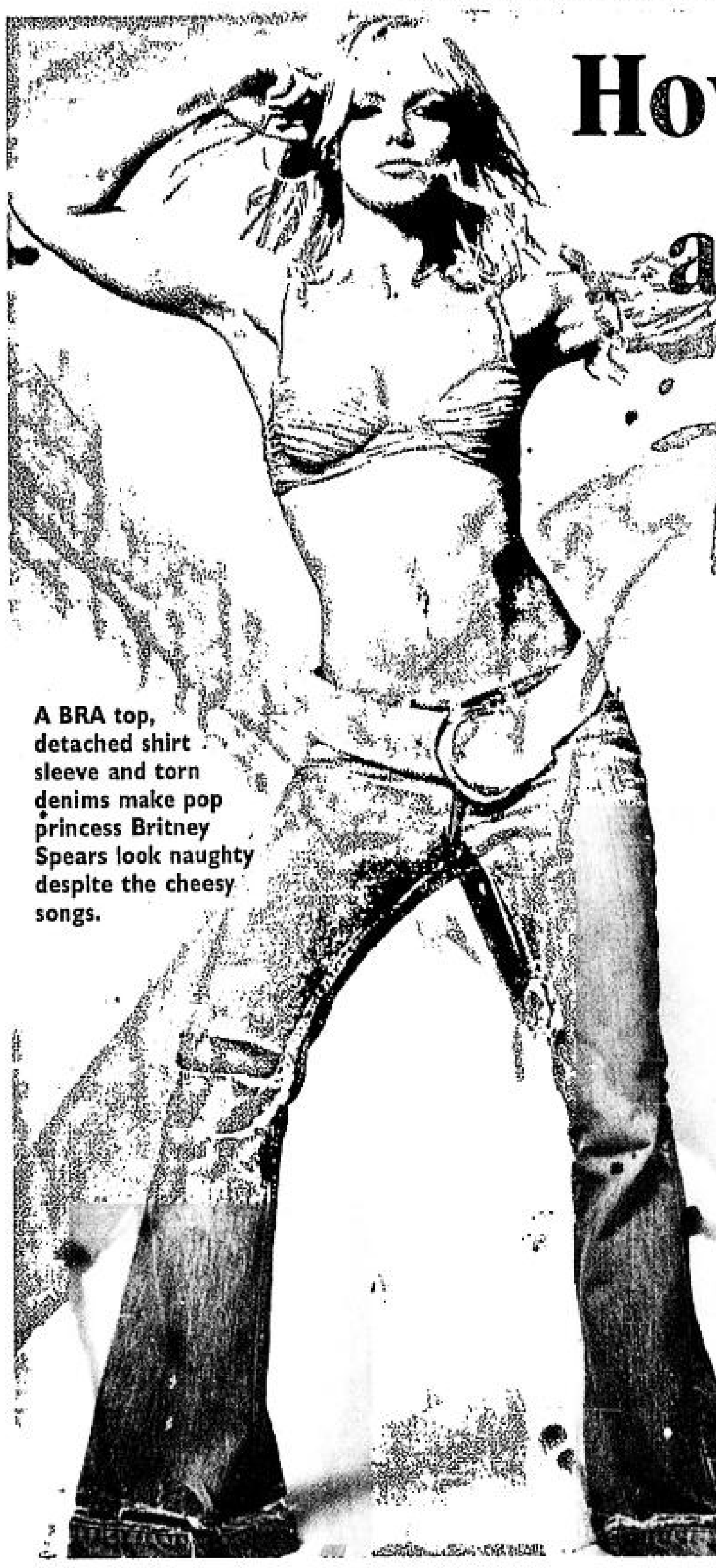

BAKIT SA FISHBOWL NYO NILALAGAY ANG PUSTISO NYO, NINONG?
MASYADONG MASIKIP KUNG SA BASO...
KAILANGAN NG PUSTISO KO NG SPACE!!!
SINO PO'NG MAY SABI NUN?!
AKO!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TOL, TYPE! FEMININE NA FEMININE!
TATUM SKP

How to look bad and stylish



A BRA top, detached shirt sleeve and torn denims make pop princess Britney Spears look naughty despite the cheesy songs.

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

You can be the next Madonna or David Beckham by reinventing your look and making it stick

TAKE a pair of knee-high socks. Not the white or the black ones. They should be stripped and in bold and pastel colors. Now, instead of wearing them over your legs, wear them over your arms, cutting off the end where your feet are supposed to be so your hands can get through. Weird isn't it?

That's what Avril Lavigne did in her first music video.

Now before all you wannabes out there decide to try this out to and become "fashionable," you have to know that it takes some guts and confidence to pull off something like this. Avril, after all, is a pop singer and she wore the arm socks specifically for her video. It would certainly be funny sitting next to a classmate who's wearing stripes and loud colors on her arms when she was just your ordinarily dressed-up gal the other day.

So who can go from the goody, safe and casual look to the shocking, scandalizing and outrageous look? Frankly, anyone. Just do a complete overhaul of your personality and better make sure you can live up to it.

It's like this: Anyone can buy the Nokia 9210, right? As long you can afford it, then go ahead and buy it. Even if it takes your six-month salary to purchase it, fine. But if you're going to have such an expensive phone but end up using a prepaid SIM card, or you subscribe to a line but keep on getting cut off because you cannot afford your plan, then you will end up looking pathetic. The same goes when you try too hard to be trendy and avant-garde.

I remember Bobby Andrews guesting in a noontime TV show. He wore his denims the opposite way with the back pockets in front. Er, what was that about? No offense to Bobby, but it wasn't in his image to go against the norm. Now if Eminem wore his pants that way, I don't think anyone would have raised anything against it because he seems to be the kind of guy who'd do anything. After all, he's the same guy who wrote a song about killing his own wife.

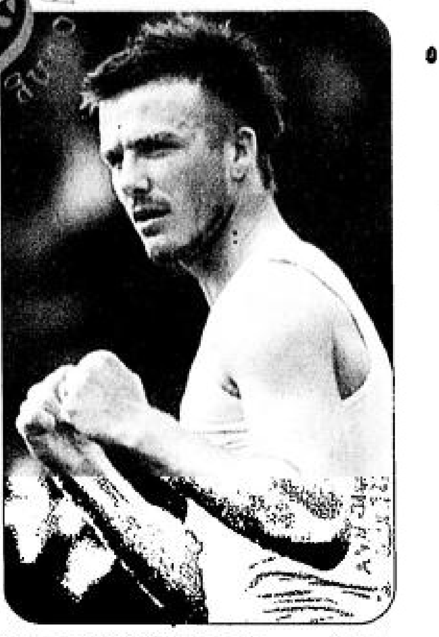
Madonna, meanwhile, is expected to be different, wearing anything from ripped stockings to a rope as accessory. But no one expected Julia Roberts to go to one of her movie premieres in a sleeveless gown and unshaved armpits. But hey, it's Julia.

In sports, it has been a long time since Dennis Rodman added color in the basketball courts with his wild hairdo and nothing has quite come close to him since. However, over at the football field, David Beckham has added spunk to the ordinary by cropping the sides of his hair, leaving the top styled to stand up on its end.

Being celebrities, these people are even encouraged to look different and bad, earning them iconic status for standing out. But still, what they project are images that they, or at least their stylists, have created for themselves. And we all project images, though most of us don't get to make any statement at all, therefore stereotyping us into being "typical."

So how does one start projecting a different image? By starting out little by little, step by step. If you want to go bad, maybe you should start out by ripping part of your denim. Or getting a tousled hairstyle and a temporary tattoo.

Here are other raunchy fashion ideas to make you look bad and stylish.



WONDERING why David Beckham is so popular? Could be the hair.

SOCK ME. On Gwen Stefani, socks find a different purpose.

MADONNA adorns her body with rope from VV Rouleaux.

The 'yosi kadiri' culture

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

Smoking, despite the well-known health hazards, is an instance of sadomasochism

S&M (sadism and masochism) is far from limited to the sexual. Even in our day-to-day experiences, we have self-destructive behavior either for the hell of it, or for the perverted pleasure of it.

Smoking has long been one of the foremost vices. Aside from the fact that it is more affordable and accessible than alcohol, weed, illegal drugs, commercial sex and merciless shopping, our society has granted smoking a special premium—the "cool" factor.

We've all heard it before—nicotine, tar, lung cancer, throat cancer, wrinkles, yellow teeth and rotten teeth. Even the vainest of us blatantly ignore the harmful effects of smoking. Evidently, the surgeon general and his warnings have been ineffective. More and more of our youth are lighting up by the minute, and more and more stores such as the lucrative Fuma have come out into the open from their smoky lairs.

Whether it be for *porma*'s sake or more seriously (make that fatally), for addiction's sake, cigarette vendors who ply the streets of the Metro never fail to run out of gasping customers. In fact, most of the vendors themselves light up while selling. Marketing strategy? I doubt it. These guys look seriously addicted, like hooked fish waiting to be grilled by fresh coal.

No one enjoys his or her first cigarette. The first try never proves to be alluring; it is often followed by coughing and choking. One would wonder why everyone else bothers to light up. The answer to this would range from the prodding of influential and well-loved friends, to sheer curiosity, stupidity, boredom, and as a relief from loneliness, anger, depression, jealousy and negative feelings. For some, smoking has proven to be a coping mechanism.

Hence, the smoking population-turned-brotherhood-of-the-ignorant-and-the-miserable unites in the open benches of schools and restos, or under the glorious sheltering umbrellas of upscale coffee hotspots. Misery indeed loves company.

I know of a sprightly man, perhaps in his late 30s, who goes to the gym almost every day and slaves over the plates of weights and bars. He eats healthily and responsibly. But to my surprise, he also smokes happily and heavily. He considers the cigarette as a reward for all his efforts at keeping fit!

It certainly is going to take more than heavy sanctions and prohibitions in school to stop students from smoking. The stern sermons, rules and punishment imposed by parents and teachers may not convince the youth to join the bandwagon to clean and healthy living. We all have our own issues. Choosing to light up a cigarette goes beyond lessons in tolerance and addiction; the issue has emotional and psychological reasons. It may be that for the lonely and the troubled, a cigarette, and not a dog, is best friend.

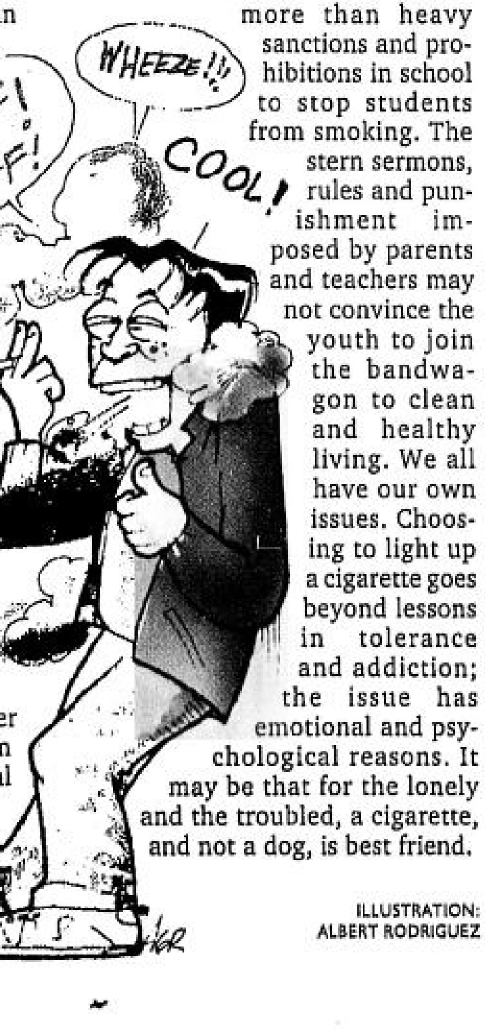

KAFF! KAFF!
WHEEZE!!!
COOL!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Btw boysteenswear
the great jeans sale
SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 20
up to 50% OFF on great selections
Free BELT on selected jeans
pay only P99
[illegible] selected P299.75 [illegible]
SM DEPARTMENT STORE We've got it all for you!
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1715. Series of 2002
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA.MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO

THE BOY IS MINE. Tracy and Grazielle play tug-of-war with Brian. Make a bold statement with prints and loud colors. Use funky bags and pointy shoes to complete your look.

Clothes *with an attitude*

Hip at Rockwell helps fashion your most liberating fashion expression

Concept and styling by Dara David
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

ADMIT it. You don't dress up just to cover your body. You are out to make a statement. Every single outfit choice is an exercise in self-expression. Fashion is art, your body the canvas, the clothes the medium. Your clothes mirror your moods—they become an extension of you. And in this age when there are hardly any more rules, you only have one fear: blending in and looking like the rest of them.

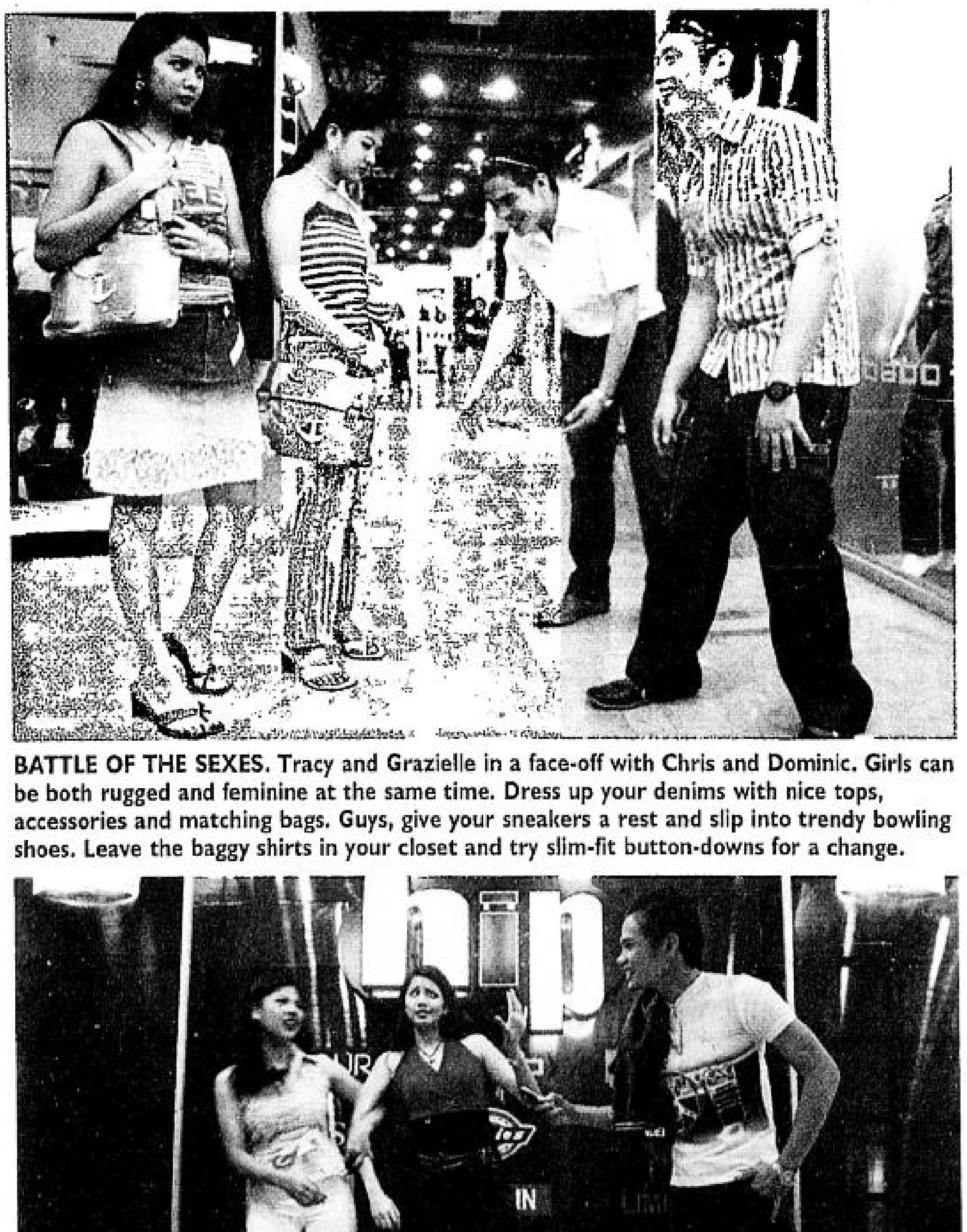
Hip, a fashion hub in Rockwell Power Plant Mall's second level, offers 13 stores to help you avoid looking like anyone else's clone. With the wide array of stores, you're bound to find something to suit your taste and personality.

Young career women can find basic pieces in Lhasa. For the trendy, Limited offers classy pieces you can mix and match. For the funky fashionistas, Babo, Clad Shoppe, Mix Clothing, Dtour and Don't Miss will send your head spinning. The stores boast of edgy, eclectic clothes and accessories sure to spruce up your wardrobe. Shoe addicts will fall in love with Janylin's selection—from mules and slip-ons to sexy stilettos and boots. Accessory aficionados will go crazy over Girl Shoppe's range of jewelry, hair accessories and bags.

Guys need not feel left out. Reverse offers shirts and pants in various designs that will add style and color to the dreary closet of a typical male. For the more experimental, Underground offers streetwear and clubwear. Dickies USA gives guys access to casual denims and shirts. Sole is home to trendy shoes that will complete and accentuate any guy's outfit.

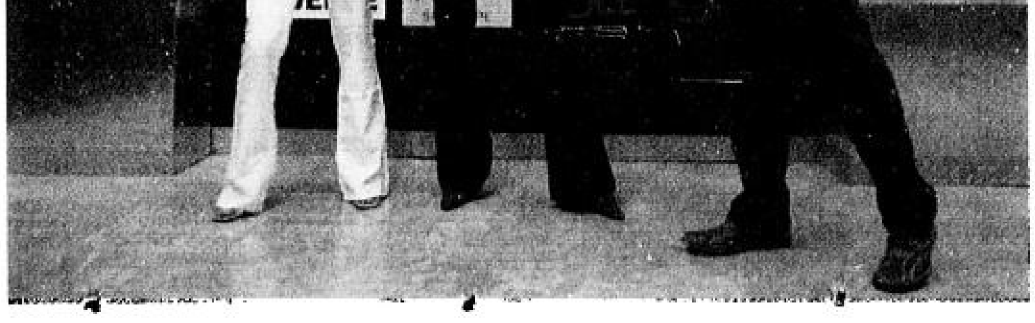
Let the stores provide the clothes—you provide the attitude. Give Hip your own definition.

ATTACK OF THE CLONES. Grazielle and Tracy in almost identical clothes. When the seemingly impossible happens (read: someone else shows up wearing the exact same outfit as yours), grin and bear it. It's your attitude that will make you stand out.



BATTLE OF THE SEXES. Tracy and Grazielle in a face-off with Chris and Dominic. Girls can be both rugged and feminine at the same time. Dress up your denims with nice tops, accessories and matching bags. Guys, give your sneakers a rest and slip into trendy bowling shoes. Leave the baggy shirts in your closet and try slim-fit button-downs for a change.

BOYS WILL ALWAYS BE BOYS. Chris, Dominic and Brian get playful in casual denims, shorts, loose shirts and caps.



"TALK TO THE HAND." Chris strikes out. If you're male and fit, don't shy away from tight-fitting shirts. Girls, colors can make a major difference both in fashion and your disposition. On days when you feel cheery and want to appear sweet, choose light colors like Grazielle. Go for dark colors like Tracy on days when you feel empowered.

URBAN HIPPIE. Tracy gets caught in the middle. Go bohemian in peasant tops and bootlegs. Finish the look with high-heeled mules. Guys, jackets serve more purpose than just to keep you warm. Use them to jazz up an outfit.

MODELS: TRACY ABAD, CHRIS ANCHETA, GRAZIELLE MILO, DOMINIC NATIVIDAD, BRIAN SALOMON

LOCATION: HIP, ROCKWELL POWER PLANT

HAIR AND MAKEUP OF TRACY AND DOMINIC: JAMES COOPER SALON IN DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO

SPECIAL THANKS TO HIP OWNERS GARY AND TRIXIE RAMIREZ, BONG AND JENG VILLON, AND DINO AMPIL

MESsAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

My esteemed greeting goes to the Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP) on its 5th Bank Marketing Convention with the theme, "GLOcALIZING Bank Marketing: Global Trends for the Local Market."

Much of nation rebuilding involves the empowerment of the local market. Despite the fact that the world is caught up in a maelstrom of an emerging global village, true strength remains within the very basic sectors of the country. That is why the administration concentrates its efforts in the local level, in order to advance global setting.

I commend the BMAP for their theme of a "glocalized" market, an ingenious term which encompasses an ideal market setting for today's world. Local implementations of global trends help equip the local market in facing the challenges of a borderless world. Indeed, this year's theme for the convention is clearly in line with the government's efforts in achieving national development. It is my hope that this event will help educate and inform many of our local businesses, particularly the small and medium enterprises, on the importance of being up to date with the new developments in the global banking industry.

My best wishes to BMAP for a successful convention. *Mabuhay*!

GMArroyo

MESsAGE FROM THE BSP GOVERNOR

Rafael B. Buenaventura

It is my pleasure to greet and wish the participants of the 5th Bank Marketing Convention a successful convention.

In the theme, "GLOcALIZING Bank Marketing: Global Trends for the Local Market," the BMAP has chosen a most appropriate topic to facilitate the transformation of local banks and other financial intermediaries into world-class financial institutions.

Glocalizing, as you aptly put it, captures the very essence of what we are now doing in the banking industry to be able to compete in the international arena.

Since its founding in 1974, the BMAP has consistently supported efforts to strengthen the banking system through the promotion and upgrading of bank marketing in the Philippines. Once again, BMAP takes local bank marketing a step further by focusing its resources for education, training and information exchange so that appropriate global trends and best practices may be adapted for local application.

I am sure that the blending of your ideas and experiences as bank executives, financial service professionals, advertising and media practitioners will give this convention an edge in enhancing bank marketing as an avenue for bringing our financial intermediation industry at par with the rest of the world.

I, therefore, wish BMAP a successful convention!

GLObAL TRENDS FOR THE LOCAL MARKET

THE EMERGING era of globalization brings new competitive challenges for the local industry. The impact of this new world order demands that industries worldwide be properly equipped to handle the economic forces that determine global market trends. To keep up with the dynamic and competitive global setting, the local industry must be constantly updated with the various developments in different parts of the world.

With this year's theme, GLOcALIZING Bank Marketing: Global Trends for the Local Market, the Convention will discuss new ideas and concepts that dictate the trends in the global marketplace and how these can be applied in the local scene. The Convention will tackle new innovation in the field of marketing communications, advertising, product and business development, public relations, media management and sales culture development.

Through this convention, BMAP aims to empower the local industry by using applicable global trends as powerful tools to become at par with the rest of the world.

True to its vision, BMAP surpasses expectations

IT ALL BEGAN with a group of 16 bankers bound by one ideology of revolutionizing the banking community. Planning and working in one spirit towards achieving this common goal, their efforts eventually gave birth to Bank Marketing Association of the Phlippines (BMAP), a community of men and women who would stand together, united in the power of one.

Formed 28 years ago as the official association of bank marketers from various financial institutions in the country, BMAP is the very heart that realized its founders' vision: to weave the fabric of the bank marketing potential and spread it as a highly competent organizational body of professionals whose fundamental aim is to upgrade the practice of bank marketing in the country.

The core of BMAP's plan surpassed expectations. It moved beyond the bounds of program activities and memberships, in the relationships built through interactions and exchange of ideas, and in partnerships forged with all members of the association. Formed in all these are ties that bind. BMAP has become a powerful network of dedicated professionals who remain connected by enduring bonds of friendship and respect with one another.

The guiding principle that led the association to fine tune its objectives is its corporate vision and mission, which aims to:

·Professionalize bank marketing and address the demands, concerns and issues in this highly dynamic field of endeavor.

·Provide bank marketing professionals with training and career development through seminars and meetings and by making the latest studies in the profession available to members.

· Encourage the creation of better products and implementation of high quality service to customers by supporting bank marketing cam-

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True to its vision, BMAP surpasses expectations

paigns that will propel these purposes.

· Create opportunities for interaction among bank marketing professionals along with outside resource persons.

Following its given set of vision and mission in place, BMAP then applied these ideals to action and tremendously achieved milestone after milestone along the way, which mirrored its remarkable transformation.

The historic inception eventually led the association to join hands with the Bank Marketing Association of the USA. The affiliation was auspicious and valuable for it had provided BMAP with the wealth of information such as publications, tapes and films useful to bank marketing.

In 1977, BMAP conducted major dialogues with sectoral representatives of the society to promote intersectoral exchange and understanding. The task effected a positive outcome, resulting with an increase in membership. Hence in 1978, 35 new members joined the existing roster of members. That same year, BMAP launched its official publication – the Bank Marketing Digest.

In February 1979, the association continued to soar high when it agreed to shift its fiscal year, resulting in the extension of the term of the incumbent president, Maximino Edralin, Jr. This agreement enabled Edralin and the future presidents to implement the ideas they learn after attending the BMAP USA Congress held every October. That same year, the association and the PR & Marketing Communications Inc. jointly sponsored the first intensive workshop on bank marketing.

The succeeding years saw the BMAP engage in various activities such as the conduct of a monthly Market Research Study on deposit and lending rates of commercial, savings, private development and government banks to update members on price movements; the Bankers' Forum corresponding with the Money World '88 International exhibition; a marketing conference; and a banking and finance forum.

BMAP also engaged in socio-civic projects such as a Christmas gift-giving activity for the indigents. And through the years, BMAP has evolved into a strong force that influenced all bona fide bank marketers, preparing them for the demanding tasks that continue to challenge the banking community. Thus as the fitting celebration of BMAP's 20th year, it initiated the First National Convention as a tribute to the men and women who made the BMAP meet head-on and survived the early challenges of the Industry.

The 2nd BMAP Convention held in 1996 strengthened the association's objective of providing professional advancement among members and creating an influence in promoting the interest of the industry and the bank marketing profession.

These remarkable achievements continued until before the turn of the millennium when BMAP encountered a roadblock. In 1998, the currency plummeted and the economy suffered a downturn. This roadblock, however, never stood in the way as an impediment for the association and its innovative mind turned such crisis into opportunities for growth and to further strengthen its bond.

The 3rd National Convention brought to fore this very poignant issue affecting not only the Philippines but its neighboring Asian countries. Anchored on the theme, *Strengthening the Banking Franchise: Tools for Survival and Growth*, the convention assessed the current economic situation and devised strategies needed for recovery. To counter the paralyzing crisis of that year, BMAP endorsed the idea of integrating Information Technology into the Philippine educational curricula to prepare young people for the growing demands as well as problems that they would face in the future.

As new and better developments cascaded like a mighty stream, the year 2000 conjured a new dimension for the BMAP community. Globalization became increasingly clear and has made inroads into the banking sector. The advent of electronic commerce has evidently spawned a new era on the way business is handled. Thus the 4th BMAP National Convention was organized and tackled relevant issues involving the developing business arena and how banking institutions would play its role in this new system in the economy.

In September 2001, BMAP, in cooperation with the BAP, organized and hosted the Executive Forum on Micorfinance, and made banking history by bringing together the different banking organizations such as the Chamber of Thrift Banks and the Rural

TRUE/D7

MESsAGE FROM THE BAP PRESIDENT

Cesar E. A. Virata

The financial system of any country is always linked with other institutions throughout the world whenever there is trade and fund transfers. The advances in communications, transportation and computation have greatly facilitated business transactions and funds and capital flows. Thus, the interaction among entities necessitated a significant amount of change and development for the financial system. And fortunately, with the help and support of banking institutions and organizations such as the BMAP, we have been able to maintain the country's stride with the rest of the world.

To be able to enjoy the advances in technology, a great deal of training is involved in linking domestic and local transactions with the entire global system; for example, remittances of overseas workers to their families in remote places can be done electronically. However, it is also important to initially analyze the local setting before adopting any of the global trends. Development and change in attitude in the locality are factors to consider for a country to effectively benefit from different approaches and compete in the globalization process.

With this convention's theme "GLOcALIZING Bank Marketing: Global Trends for the Local Market", the Bankers Association of the Philippines lauds the BMAP for your tireless efforts in keeping the general public informed about the global developments in the banking sector.

The BAP wishes you a successful convention.

MESsAGE FROM THE BMAP PRESIDENT

Geronimo D. Diaz

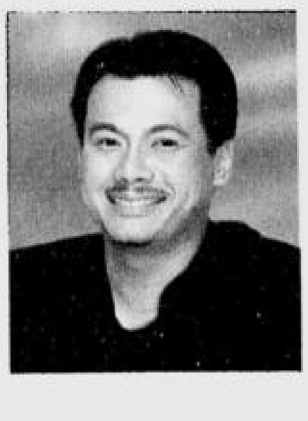
Banks, as financial institutions, have recognized the significance of global perspectives as an essential undertaking in keeping itself abreast with advances in marketing and related fields. It takes even greater importance since change is inevitable in these challenging times.

Let this year's BMAP Convention with the theme "GLOcALIZING Bank Marketing: Global trends for the Local Market" be a helpful and effective venue for information and incomparable learning experience. This will equip Filipino professionals with techniques on how to effectively deal with global changes in today's dynamic economy.

We take pride that only in this Convention will you find the most stimulating discussions and challenging interactions from both the speakers and delegates. After the Convention, we hope that you will face the global challenge with a mindset that we can do it.

MESsAGE FROM THE CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

Allan M. Tumbaga



Times are difficult and this was well felt by your convention committee. Nonetheless, we felt that it was our obligation to the local bank marketing community to make sure that the biennial BMAP convention pushes through this year.

This year's BMAP convention holds an apt and relevant theme, "GLOcALIZING Bank Marketing: Global Trends for the Local Market". By delving into the tried and tested bank marketing practices globally, we can adopt the best and applicable approaches in the local milieu. "GLOcALIZING Bank Marketing" is important for us to bravely forge the seemingly difficult times. Of importance as well, is not just to endure but to instill among ourselves a global mindset in preparation for better times.

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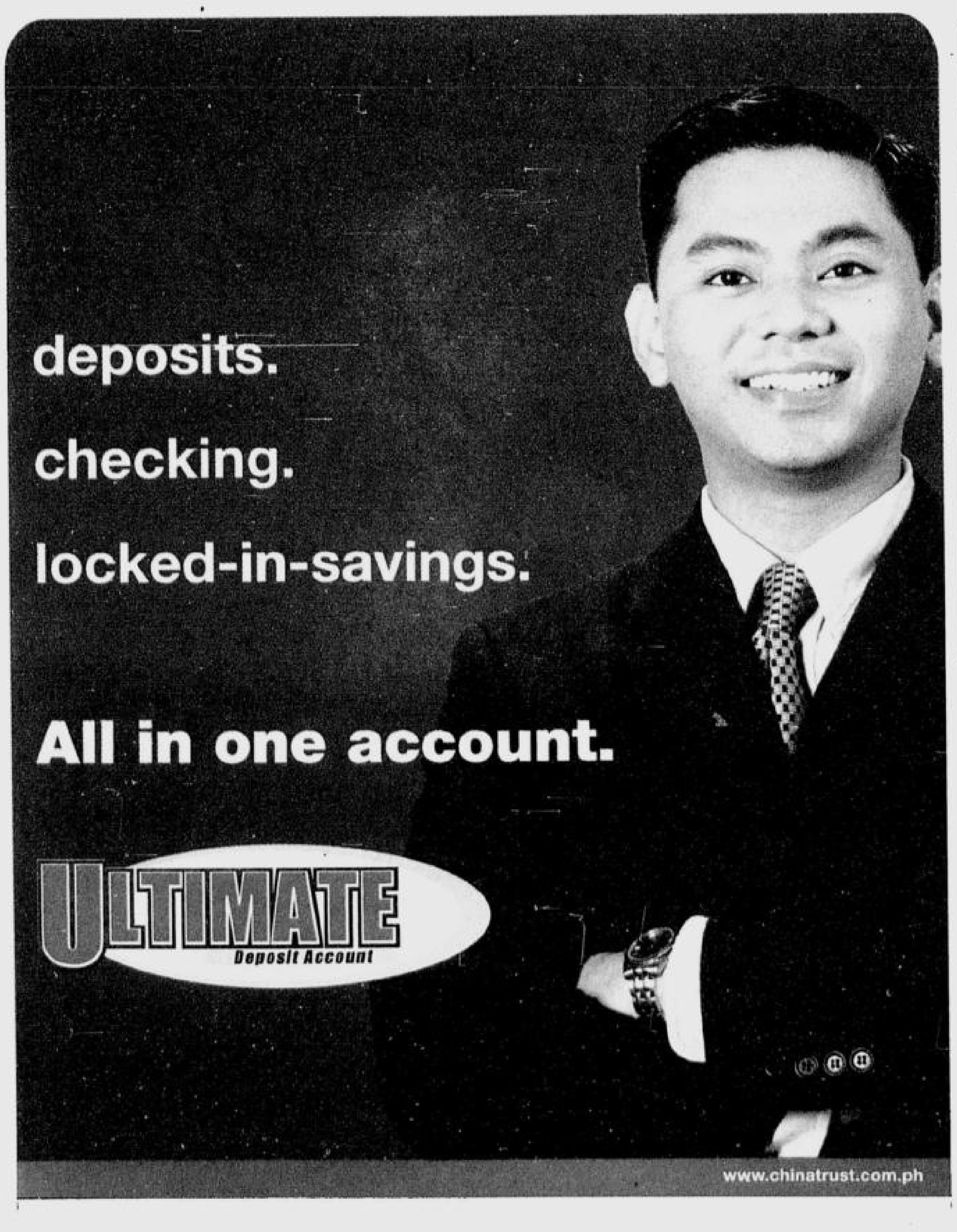

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CONVeNTION HIGHLIGHTS

Global insights, local setting.

The Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines gathers in one venue the industry experts in marketing communications, advertising, product and business development and public relations to discuss timely subjects concerning the present-day bank marketing in the country.

Bank Marketing 2002 Expo theme "GLOcALIZING Bank Marketing: Global Trends for the Local Market " explores various global perspectives on how the country's banking industry can face up to the global challenges of effective marketing.

For this year, twelve power-charged topics will provide valuable insights and vantage points to the convention participants. Day One's roster of topics include: Local Marketing Strategies Applied to Financial Services, Global Ads for the Local Market, Corporate Identity: A Global Strategic Issue, Institutionalizing the Sales Culture: Global Trends, Local Implementation and Service Quality: Recent Developments in Asian Financial Services.

Equally important issues and topics will be tackled in Day Two consisting of: A Review of Marketing Trends in Asian Retail Banking, Latest Global Trends in the Integrated Marketing Communication for Financial Services, The New Product Process in Financial Services: Strategy for Success, Succesful Cross-selling Practices in the Financial Services Industry, The Role of Market Research in Developing New Personal Financial Products, Automating Sales: The Role of Global Technology in Selling Today, and lastly the awaited panel discussion titled, Is There Such a Thing as Off-the-Record?

The convention is a venue for a wealth of information and meaningful exchanges of ideas coming from the best minds in various fields: advertising industry mavericks Greg Garcia and Luis Morales, and multi-awarded Jos Ortega; chief executives Joven Reyes, Greg Martin and Bing Van Tooren; media personalities Ces Oreña-Drilon, Alvin Elchico and Fil Sionil; and visiting speakers Steve Lesser, Tina Yap, and Titien Ahmed. Truly a gathering of brilliant minds giving this convention an international prestige.

Now, it's time to GLOcALIZE.

CONVeNTION COMMITTEE

From left to right: Cathy Alonso of Chinatrust Bank, Milen de Quiros of Full Circle Communications, Inc., Allan Tumbaga of RCBC, Roni Tapia-Merk of BPI

From left to right: Joee Guilas of UCPB Savings Bank, Bobby Banaag of Planters Development Bank, Sonny Torres of Global Training Solutions, Inc., Ferdie La Chica of East West Banking Corp.

Committee Directors and Chairpersons

Education & Research
- Jaz L. Buńag, Metrobank
- Sally Magat, DBP

External Relations
- Yolly M. Albano, Allied Banking Corporation
- Fe Miranda Aruta, Planters Development Bank

Finance
- Ricky R. Lepatan, Jr., UCPB
- Maria B. Laraya, Asiatrust Bank

Program
- Jose Mari Banzon, Export and Industry Bank
- Peter Paul Olympia, Equitable-PCI Bank

Membership
- Ferdie La Chica, East West Bank
- Mia Lagdameo-Sy, China Bank

Special Events
- Maureen C. Abelardo, Equitable-PCI Bank
- Maribel R. Cotoco, Banco Filipino

Publicity & Promotions
- Roni Tapia-Merk, BPI
- Joee Guilas, UCPB

Ways & Means
- Bobby Banaag, Planters Development Bank
- Lon Fernandez, DBP

True to its vision... *(continued)*

Bankers Association of the Philippines, to heed the government's call for a more active participation among banks in micro-lending. Leading players in microfinancing such as Atty. John V. Owens, Chief of Party of Microenterprise Access to Banking Service, Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting, Chairman and CEO of Planters Development Bank and Dr. Jaime Aristotle Alip, Chairman of Card Bank, Inc., shared their experiences to entice fellow bankers to look into this sector as a means to alleviate poverty.

With the emergence of the global village and the changes it ushers, the BMAP community faces a new challenge – to enable the banking industry as well as the local industries to grow with the change. This year's convention takes on that challenge. With the theme, "GLOcALIZING Bank Marketing: Global Trends for the Local Market," the convention will discuss new ideas and concepts that dictate the trends in the global marketplace and how these can be applied in the local scene.

Now with 65 active members representing various universal, commercial and savings banks, BMAP continues to remain steadfast in its thrust of undertaking major concerns that would immensely benefit the banking community and bring about a more responsive banking industry.

Throughout its history, the association has never wavered on its vision and mission – the very seed that was born from the hearts of the founding fathers 28 years ago. Developments and technological advances are moving fast but BMAP's keen desire of binding the bank marketers in one spirit, to work towards achieving a common goal remains the same. Change may be inevitable but it is through this maelstrom of progressive changes that the BMAP's sense of community continues to come alive.

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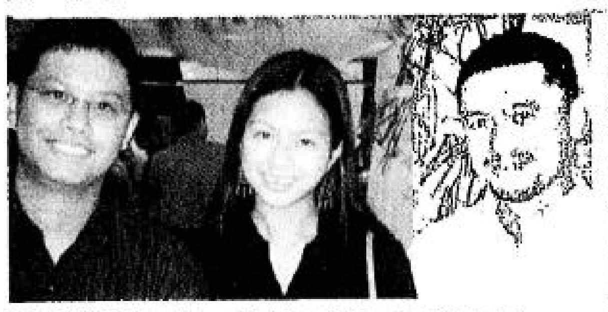


URBANITES. Brian Valdes, Thea Jacinto and Dennis Valdes at Urban Spa

CARBONATED. Joanna Preysler, Raul Francisco and Cristine Tuason

PHOTOS: TIM YAP

OFF TO THE BALL. Ricco and Tina Ocampo

AT MALACAÑANG PARK. Birthday boy Dato Arroyo and Kakai Manotok

Iconoclastic surprises and October's hot fests

Tim Yap

EVEN if she is way past the 2bU! age limit, **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** remains an icon for her youthful but iconoclastic style, class and a sense of fun that is hers and hers alone. From delighted kids to young partyphiles to old matrons, all share a unique fascination for this larger-than-life character.

"Come as Tessa," the invite came in the form of a text message for what was going to be a surprise costume party as La Tessa was going to turn a year younger. Tessa, the loving and lovable one who loved hosting parties for friends and family, was going to be on the opposite side of the fence. The plan was for her to be led straight to her house right after her yoga class so that she would totally be unaware, and unmade up at that.

Let's see how we can pull this off, we thought.

Immediately, there was a mad scramble for wigs, boa feathers and sequined, loud frou frou. Style meister and cousin **Leica** had to sneak into Tessa's walk-in closet to pretend to borrow "stuff" for a Shu Uemura photo shoot.

Meanwhile, forever "in the loop" Tessa was clueless about the preparations.

The day came and I called Tessa just before I headed to Gold's for a quick workout. It turned out she was at the Pen, attending an event. Sheesh—I'm sure she knows about it and is prepared for the surprise, I thought.

It turns out she didn't. Right after cocktails at the Pen, she changed into yoga gear and headed off to her class with teacher **Bela Lipat**.

So there, right after class, she showered, and surprise! Everyone in her close circle arrived at her whimsical home in Tessa wear, baubles, bangles, beads, wigs and all.

Tessa, the little bundle of excitement, screamed in joyful shock not only because we all caught her without any trace of makeup and costume, but because she was totally unaware of what was planned behind her back. Despite all that, she looked beautiful.

Tables were totally turned as sister **Sandy** played hostess in a burgundy China chop wig and a shimmery maroon dress—whew, the things you do for the people you love. **Rosanne Cruz** wore the blue wig that Tessa wore to the Gift Gate "Can't Stop Christmas" event; **Rajo Laurel** wore the Marie Antoinette pink wig that Tessa wore to the **Patrick Rosas** book launch; and **Tina Ocampo** wore a mask of feathers and a stunning gown that had diva written all over it.

There were parlor games like "guess Tessa's real age, real height, favorite salon, etc."; speeches from everyone how Tessa had touched their lives; and laughter, heavy doses of it—for what would be a gathering in honor of Tessa be without it?

Days after, we would find ourselves at Tessa's newest baby, the Urban Spa on the 5/L Shangri-la Plaza Mall in Edsa where she hosted an intimate natal day dinner wearing a "Drakula" (yes, from the fashion pictorial you saw some Fridays back) gown by **Danilo Franco**.

ROLE REVERSAL? Which one is Tessa and which one is Sandy here?

Then, another week passed, and we were at Dish for a birthday treat from **EJ Litton** and **Philip Cu-unjieng**, where Tessa was in Shakira mode and danced with the band on the Dish stage.

For someone like Tessa, indeed the fun never stops. Cheers to you, my icon.

Dashing Dato

That same week, I was off to another surprise, this time it was for youngest presidential son **Dato Arroyo**. "Casual *lang ito, ha*," he said, reminding me not to expect anything loud and extravagant. "I'm cheap, as long as there's a party, I'm there," I told him, insisting that I am really as down to earth as can be, despite what other people think.

When I got to the after-dinner Sunday party at Malacañang Park, Dato was surrounded by his Ateneo law school buddies. His young fiancée, banker **Kakai Manotok**, was his official date and photographer. They told me they will tie the knot on May 7.

As they went around to entertain their friends, I realized it was a really casual gathering of good friends, a very small circle of his close pals from school—nothing show biz or flashy about the party. The only person from the glitz biz that was there was **Paolo Bediones**, who was refreshingly not in show biz mode as he mingled with the guests.

Sister **Luli** and her friends sat inconspicuously at the opposite end of the party, preferring to be among themselves as other guests enjoyed the food and drinks.

The food, composed of grilled hotdogs, fish and *isaw*, was comfort-meets-street-food at its coziest, nothing pretentious about it, just down-home *pulutan* type fare—it would have been perfect for a San Miguel Beer *barkada* type commercial.

Let's raise our mugs to Dato! Here, here!

Oktoberfest orgasm

Yes, it's that time of the year again. Besides Christmas, partyphiles also look forward to the yearly Oktoberfest! Like the Irish St. Patrick's Day, this German-originated, now Pinoy-appropriated (well, at least by San Miguel Beer) drinking festival has been a staple in yearly celebrations, perfectly held right before Halloween and Christmas.

Speaking of SMB, it is having a big, big launch for the yearly tradition at the Megastrip this Friday. Expect a beer-drinking marathon that would last till forever. Last year I witnessed how SMB was well-loved when I attended its Oktoberfest launch, and boy, us Pinoys really dig beer.

Your favorite bands will also grace the occasion, which will start in the afternoon and end when the beer supplies last—which means forever! So, if you are craving for that distinctly Pinoy beer buzz, you know where to go.

Hik. Double *hik*.

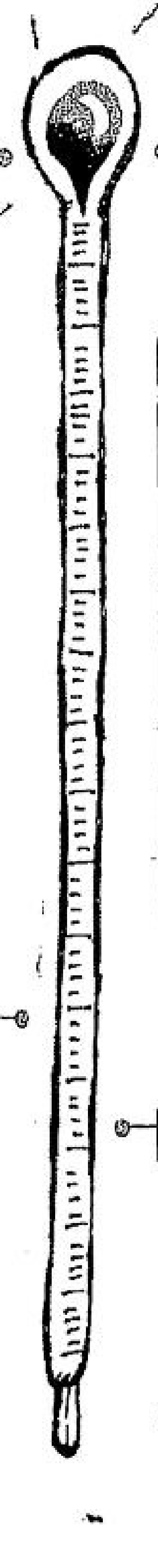
This month also sees the Pinoy concert stage set aflame with international acts. The biggest British rock band since the Beatles—yes, that's Oasis—will come to Manila for a concert on Oct. 23. With hits like "Wonderwall," "Champagne Supernova," "Don't Look Back in Anger," Oasis will rock the Araneta Coliseum this month. For tickets, priced P2,750, P2,200, P1,050, P700 and P300, call Ticketnet at 911-5555.

Also from the grapevine, bands like Red Hot Chili Peppers are to follow. Rock on!

For rave fanatics, the perennial Smart-Big Fish-MTV party at the Tent will feature the Ministry of Sound. This British electronic music meisters have been at it since forever. Now with even their own club in Bangkok and despite being relegated as a tourist attraction in UK, they have succeeded in branching out and letting the world know the gospel of their music. The event happens this Saturday.

2bU! Thermometer

Hooray to 3-in-1 pen, boo to e-mail junk



FRIO MIXX'S OREO SHAKE-A-MOO. Goodbye, ancient pearl shakes; hello, rich milky mouthwatering drinks. Frio Mixx's own shot at the now quite common Oreo drink is really good. It's almost sinful. Almost.

LOTTE'S CHOCOPIE. These chocolate-covered marshmallow-y crumbly biscuits are heaven-sent.

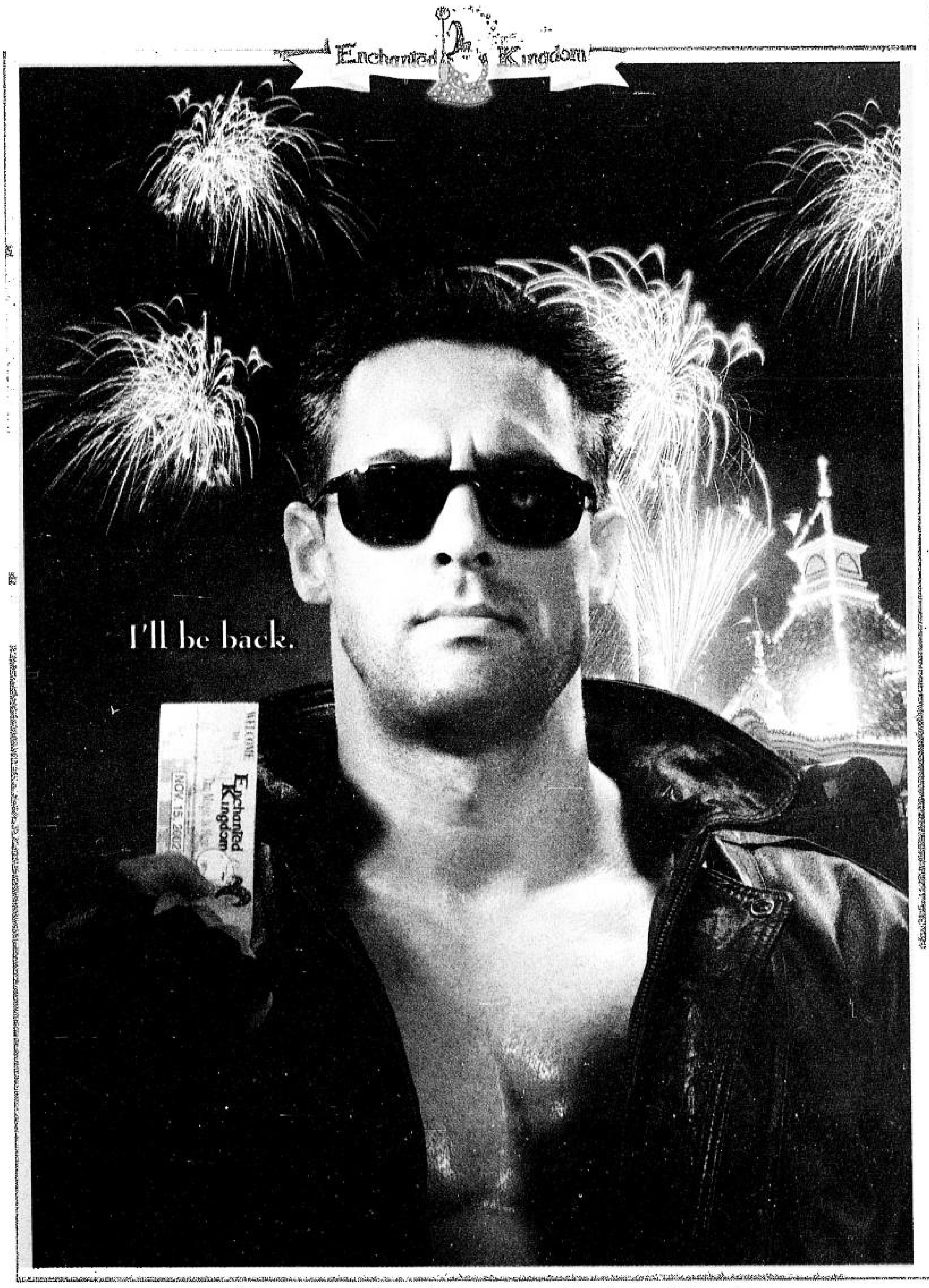
BIC E.3. Don't you just hate having to rummage in your bag for the writing apparatus you are searching for? A pencil case may be the answer—but they are just so grade school. No wonder we *looove* BIC's new pen. It's a ball pen, mechanical pencil and PDA stylus in one. Say "cool" three times, quick.

RPN 9 finally changed the font of its onscreen digital clock—it looks much nicer. Perhaps a small change—but it's one we've been waiting for. Cool.

"KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS, MAY BUMAYO." This is supposedly a movie. We are speechless.

SPAM. *Pleeeeeeaaaase.* Our inboxes are too clogged. We don't want to buy Viagra, we don' t want to see you naked, we don't want to order fake diplomas, we get enough Web traffic, we don't need business cards, we don't care if we drop dead if we don't send out your chain letter, we don't need help paying our bills. We don't need junk, period.

BAD DELIVERY SERVICES. Some take too long, some forget to bring everything, others don't bring change—even after you told them to. Wasn't this service offered to provide convenience and not to irritate us?



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